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Addendum

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1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Introduction

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) is an independent statutory authority established by the Commonwealth Parliament in 1990 under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989 (ATSIC Act). ATSIC is a unique, decentralized organization which advocates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues nationally and internationally, advises the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, and delivers programmes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Through ATSIC's regional councils and the Board of Commissioners, elected indigenous representatives are brought into the process of government. These representatives have power over decision-making on policy and funding. Supporting the elected arm is an administration staffed by public servants. ATSIC's vision is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities freely exercising their legal, economic, social, cultural and political rights.

ATSIC takes an active role in advancing the indigenous agenda, and indigenous rights, on the national and international stage. It is the only national indigenous organization that has the resources and the influence to do this.

The Board of ATSIC consists of a Chairperson and 17 Commissioners and is a representative institution elected by 35 regional councils comprising 387 Councillors throughout Australia. The regional councils are themselves elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The goal of ATSIC is "to secure the empowerment of our people so that, through self-determination, we can make the decisions that affect our lives and share in Australia's land, wealth and resources, contributing equitably to the nation's economic, social and political life, with full recognition of our indigenous cultural heritage as the first Australians".

ATSIC has an organizational commitment to undertaking and promoting programmes to further international human rights and indigenous rights. ATSIC's international agenda is set out to promote, protect and pursue the recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples through the representation of indigenous Australian perspectives at international forums and the development and monitoring of international standards. This involves maintaining relationships with peak indigenous organizations, liaising with government departments, reporting on Australia's compliance with international conventions and contributing to national reports to world forums.

Participation

ATSIC actively participates in, and provides significant support to indigenous non-governmental organizations in Australia to enable them to participate in, important meetings of the United Nations, especially those related to indigenous rights. Since June 1995, participation has included:

(a) The United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, July, Geneva: ATSIC delegation of nationally elected representatives backed by administration staff, and grants to support attendance by indigenous non-

governmental organizations — 11 indigenous peoples' organization (IPO) representatives in 1995 (thirteenth session), 7 in 1996 (fourteenth session), 6 in 1997 (fifteenth session), 5 in 1998 (sixteenth session);

(b) 1995-1996 Technical Meeting on the Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

(c) The Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (on the rights of indigenous peoples). Geneva: ATSIC delegation of nationally elected representatives backed by administration staff, engagement of subject specialist consultant, and funding of assistance to indigenous non-governmental organizations to enable their participation — three IPOs in 1995, two in 1996, four in 1997, five in 1998;

(d) The International Workshop on a Permanent Forum for Indigenous People in the United Nations System: first workshop, Copenhagen, June 1995 — supported attendance by one indigenous non-government organization; second workshop, Santiago, Chile, May 1997 — ATSIC delegation of nationally elected representatives and funding assistance to two indigenous non-governmental organizations to attend;

(e) United Nations Human Rights Procedures Conference, Sydney, June 1995: supported attendance by one indigenous peoples' organization;

(f) Forum 95 and Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, August 1995: ATSIC delegation and support to indigenous peoples' organizations to attend;

(g) The inter-sessional workshop on traditional knowledge and intellectual property (Madrid, November 1997) prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: ATSIC delegation and funding grants to two indigenous peoples' organizations to attend.

Cooperation

ATSIC's annual contributions to the general United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People have also been viewed favourably by the United Nations as evidence of ATSIC's support for its work. ATSIC has provided $30,000 (Australian dollars) annually since 1994-1995 to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

ATSIC prepared an information kit on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people for use by indigenous peoples throughout the world. ATSIC has also commissioned and published an analysis of the draft declaration.

ATSIC liaises with the United Nations through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and the national office of the United Nations Information Services in Sydney, Australia, in relation to obtaining information about international United Nations forums and meetings that concern indigenous issues and forwarding information about issues of concern to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ATSIC has held consultation meetings with national peak indigenous people's organizations: two in 1995-1996, two in 1996-1997 and two in 1997-1998 on international human and indigenous rights issues.

Other relevant activities

Comments of ATSIC were provided to the Australian Government for the Open-Ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations, third session, 8-19 January 1996 (see E/1995/83/Add.1 of 6 June 1995, entitled "Report of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations on its second session").

In 1995-1996, ATSIC was the national agency responsible for coordinating, managing and monitoring the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in Australia. Owing to budget cuts in 1996-1997, expenditure on decade-related coordination and specific programme activities was severely restricted. Activities included:

(a) Consultation with peak indigenous peoples' organizations and government departments (1995-1996);

(b) Meetings of an Indigenous National Advisory Committee for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to coordinate the Australian programme of action (1995-1996);

(c) Meetings of a national government interdepartmental committee on the International Decade (1995-1996);

(d) A consultancy to develop an information package on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people including a plain English version of the draft declaration, a detailed analysis of the draft declaration, and a document outlining the historical development of the draft declaration (1995-1996);

(e) Funding an indigenous artist to design a national logo for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-1996) and launch in 1996-1997;

(f) Launch, national dissemination and international dissemination through the United Nations, of an information package of the draft declaration (at Old Parliament House on 16 September 1996), containing also information sheets on indigenous peoples of the world and the involvement of indigenous peoples in the United Nations system.

ATSIC has contributed written submissions to:

(a) Australia's report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1995-1996);

(b) Considerations concerning the ratification of International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 (1995-1996);

(c) Briefings on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1995-1996);

(d) Australia's fourth report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1996-1997);

(e) Australia's report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1997-1998);

(f) Drafting of Australia's report under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1997-1998).

ATSIC has provided input through Australian Government processes to the following sessions of the Commission on Human Rights: fifty-second (1996), fifty-third (1997) and fifty-fourth (1998).

ATSIC also hosts a number of international visitors and indigenous delegations each year.

ATSIC is particularly cognizant of the benefit of shared knowledge across international boundaries. It has participated in, funded indigenous Australian participation in, or provided sponsorship towards, a large number of international meetings.

2. CHANGE

(Special consultative status granted 1987)

Introduction

CHANGE's main aim is to promote the recognition of the inalienable human rights and dignity of women and to publicize their abuse, whether by the State, commercial interests or individuals. This is undertaken through publications, seminars, conferences, capacitation, training and consultancy services.

CHANGE is not a membership organization, but has a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland-based advisory group, an international advisory group, and supporters in many countries, and works in collaboration with numerous other international non-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, depending on the project.

CHANGE received funding during the period in question from the European Commission, the British Council and the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a variety of activities, and contributed a value of $300,000 to the work of other organizations.

The present report covers CHANGE's preparatory work for, participation in, and follow-up to two world conferences and the Commission for Human Rights.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and conferences

Activities were as follows:

(a) 1994:

(i) In preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, CHANGE organized a non-governmental meeting (with OXFAM and others) to insert the gender and human rights dimensions into the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. This was conveyed through government and other advocates to the third session of the

Preparatory Committee for the Summit, and CHANGE was represented at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee;

(ii) CHANGE also organized a day conference on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development;

(iii) In preparation for the Fourth World Conference on women, CHANGE was represented at:

a. the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the Conference in New York;

b. the ECE Regional Meeting in Vienna, contributing to the formation of the NGO Steering Committee; organizing a workshop on "Women and Global Governance" during the NGO Forum, and a debriefing for United Kingdom non-governmental organizations; and also issued a summary of the regional declaration;

c. the African Regional Meeting, in Dakar, having held an orientation and lobby training session in advance for Senegalese non-governmental organizations;

(iv) CHANGE published a Guide to the Fourth World Conference on Women for free and open use, adapted by OXFAM for its own worldwide circulation;

(v) CHANGE also organized regional Conference lobby training/United Nations Conference simulation sessions (to enable women to lobby on issues of concern to them from within the context of their own countries) with the British Council in East, West and Southern Africa, the Middle East and West Asia, reaching some 500 participants from 45 countries in 1994 and 1995;

(b) 1995:

(i) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, and NGO Forum. CHANGE was represented by the Director, who took part in the non-governmental organization human rights caucus. Within the Forum, she organized joint panels with Anti-Slavery International and OXFAM;

(ii) Fourth World Conference on Women:

a. Preparations: CHANGE organized three United Kingdom Parliamentary meetings to brief parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations, forming the United Kingdom "Beijing Action Group", and the Director briefed the European Parliament in Strasbourg. She was also adviser to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service on the World Conference, and to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the British Council, the Women's National Commission and a range of other organizations, including the ECE NGO Working Group on Women in Geneva, whose European Platform for Action drafting meeting she chaired. She was also team leader for workshops in China itself, organized by the Great Britain China Centre, the British Council and the United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration, in 1994 and 1995, to explain what issues non-governmental organizations work on in different countries, how an NGO Forum is organized and how gender should be integrated into development. Three special open meetings were held in immediate preparation in the United

Kingdom: on women in Eastern Europe, women's human rights, and a conference and NGO Forum simulation;

b. Participation: for the Fourth World Conference on Women itself, CHANGE was contracted by the European Commission, Human Rights and Democratisation Unit, to identify, enable and capacitate 40 women from Eastern Europe to take part in the Conference and NGO Forum. The countries or areas involved were: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Kosovo. A United Kingdom/China/East European support team were also taken to Beijing and introduced to the United Nations system. During the course of the NGO Forum, CHANGE also organized a conference orientation, and two workshops on using the United Nations human rights system (with Judge Elizabeth Evatt, member of the Human Rights Committee) and on women and global governance/United Nations system. Both of these were supported with documents published under those titles (with the assistance of the British Council and European Commission);

c. Follow-up: contacts with the East European participants were continued, through a special additional page, "Out of Beijing", in the CHANGE *Newsletter*, and through invitations to them to take part in the human rights training seminars, 1996 and 1997 (and the International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship, held in Brighton in 1996, of which CHANGE was a sponsor/organizer); the Director also conducted a post-Conference training workshop in Madras, India, with grass-roots groups and women's studies, development and other non-governmental organizations, to discuss the integration of the Platform for Action into India's National Policy on Women; CHANGE staff contributed to three Council of Europe activities in Bucharest, Budapest and Strasbourg in the aftermath of the Fourth World Conference on Women; ECE Subregional Follow-up Meeting to the Conference, Bucharest: CHANGE was represented;

(iii) Fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva: CHANGE was represented and made an intervention on servile marriage;

(c) 1996:

(i) CHANGE organized a National Day Conference on "What the Platform for Action means to you" to make each of the critical areas of concern relevant to the national situation. A report was published within 10 days to contribute to the national consultations conducted by government;

(ii) Fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York: CHANGE was represented;

(iii) Fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights: CHANGE organized a training programme for women with respect to using the United Nations human rights system, in cooperation with Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE). Twelve women from areas in armed conflict gathered in Geneva for a basic grounding in human rights, observing the Commission on Human Rights in session, taking part in the women's

caucus, and learning from practice and participation rather than theory alone. This was followed up by a meeting in Kampala, Uganda. CHANGE was represented at the former Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (renamed the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights);

(iv) ECE General Meeting: CHANGE was represented and made an intervention on mainstreaming follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(d) 1997:

(i) Forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York: CHANGE was represented;

(ii) Fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights: the second two-week CHANGE orientation and training course, in collaboration with the ECE NGO Working Group on Women, drawing 15 women from areas in armed conflict in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Apart from participating in a law session and other sessions, they were introduced to thematic and country Special Rapporteurs;

(e) 1998:

(i) Forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York: CHANGE was represented and organized three panels, on women and economic rights, democracy, and culture and tradition. The joint CHANGE/British Council/United Kingdom European Union (EU) Presidency exhibition, entitled "Women, Men, Democracy and Governance" was launched and exhibited in the United Nations Secretariat;

(ii) Fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Human Rights, Geneva: the exhibition "Women, Men, Democracy and Governance" was launched and exhibited in the Palais des Nations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In 1996, the Director was invited by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to take part in a panel on Governance in 1994 and became a regular consultant to UNDP on gender and governance issues, gender and poverty, and gender mainstreaming, 1995, 1996 and 1997. (The Director is undertaking research on women in the United Nations system.)

Participants from the training seminars in Geneva in 1996 and 1997 were introduced to UNHCR through the gender focal point.

Other relevant activities

The Director was a participant in the Expert Group on the Integration of the Human Rights of Women held by the Centre for Human Rights, Geneva, in June 1995 in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The Director was a participant in the Expert Group on Gender and Armed Conflict held by INSTRAW/Division for the Advancement of Women, Santo Domingo, in 1996.

As a member of the Commonwealth Expert Group on the Integration of Gender in 1994-1995, the Director contributed to the Commonwealth input to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Platform for Action. She also prepared an analysis of national machineries for the advancement of women and a review of Commonwealth countries' implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Director took part in two conferences on the future of the United Nations system at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Centre, Wilton Park, in 1996 and 1997 attended by, inter alia, Advisers to the Secretary-General, the Administrator of UNDP, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations.

The Director, Georgina Ashworth, published *Gender and Governance: an Agenda for Change* with the UNDP Gender in Development Monograph Series (No. 3) (1994 and revised 1996). This is used in universities as well as in the United Nations system.

The Director took part in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference on political partnership between women and men in New Delhi, India (and other similar events); IPU has a special relationship with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat on democracy.

3. Centre of Economic and Social Studies of the Third World

(Special consultative status granted 1987)

Introduction

The Centre of Economic and Social Studies of the Third World (CEESTEM) has the following goals:

(a) To carry out studies tending to define an order of priorities respecting the most urgent problems of the countries of the third world, and to check the economic development process, taking into consideration the uneven distribution of wealth and the insufficient participation in world commerce;

(b) To create a system of exchange of experiences in economic, cultural, scientific and technological subjects and a web of information of possibilities of this group of countries, to promote the use of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

The Centre of Economic and Social Studies of the Third World attends the annual meeting of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat (DPI), in its headquarters in New York and participates in the work of the local office of DPI in Mexico in respect of conferences and declarations.

The Centre also cooperates closely with UNDP in Mexico City, as well as with DPI regarding local problems.

Research programmes in different areas to help the United Nations during 1995-1998

These programmes were in the following areas:

(a) Latin America in international forums;

(b) The agricultural policy in the United States of America and Mexico;

(c) The effects of globalization in the agricultural sector;

(d) The new informatic technology;

(e) The satellite communications in Latin America;

(f) The growth of the external debt in Latin America;

(g) The restructuration of the world economy;

(h) The analysis of bilateral relations between Mexico and the United States of America;

(i) Relations between the Latin American countries from the economical, political and social points of view.

Conferences and seminars in the period 1995-1998

These conferences and seminars included:

(a) Conference on traditional medicine and medicinal plants (CEESTEM, Mexico, 1995);

(b) Conference on the goal of work: new technologies; the birth of a new era (CEESTEM, Mexico, 1995);

(c) Attendance at the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, New York, 1995;

(d) Round-table conference about globalization and human rights in Latin America, Mexico City, 1996;

(e) Conference on the exclusive economic zone in the countries of the third world: economic and political analysis and its results in Latin America, Mexico City, 1996; Conference about the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, from the point of view of international law: an option for development, Mexico City, 1996;

(f) Conference about education and development, Mexico, 1997;

(g) Economic cooperation in developing countries;

(h) Conference about the pacific solution of the conflicts in Latin America (CEESTEM, Mexico);

(i) Globalization and sovereignty (CEESTEM, Mexico, 1997);

(j) Conference about the reform of the State, in the environment of world transformations, organized by the Minister of Reform of the State of Brazil and the United Nations, Brasilia, 1998;

(k) Seminar on cultural and social action on the border with the United States of America.

4. International Council for Adult Education

(General consultative status granted 1991)

Introductory statement

The International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) is a global partnership of adult learners and adult educators and their organizations, or others who use adult learning as a principal means for performing their work, and of adult learners and others who support these aims. ICAE promotes adult and lifelong learning as a necessary component of the process through which people are able to live in independent, sustainable, democratic and participatory societies. Adult and lifelong learning are deeply linked to social, economic and political justice; equality of gender relations; the universal right to learn; living in harmony with the environment; respect for human rights; recognition of cultural diversity; peace; and the active involvement of women and men in decisions affecting their lives. ICAE has been the major non-governmental organization serving the field of adult education and of participatory development. It represents 704 literacy, adult and lifelong learning non-governmental organizations from Africa, Arab States, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and North America. ICAE and some of its regional members are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO and UNICEF.

Previously secure sources such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) (NORAD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Danish Agency for Development Assistance) (DANIDA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland continue to support ICAE on a multi-year basis.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Participation encompassed the following:

(a) ICAE President together with a large delegation of representatives from ICAE's networks participated in the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995;

(b) ICAE President, Executive Director and coordinators of ICAE's programmes participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 29 August-15 September 1995;

(c) Coordinator of the ICAE Peace and Human Rights Education Programme attended the Economic and Social Council working meetings on NGO organizations at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria, 1995;

(d) Coordinator of the ICAE Peace and Human Rights Education Programme attended the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 15-22 February 1996;

(e) Coordinator of the ICAE Peace and Human Rights Education Programme participated at the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Geneva, Switzerland, October 1996;

(f) ICAE President, General Coordinator of the ICAE Gender and Education Office (GEO) and ICAE Communications Coordinator attended the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, United States of America, 10-21 March 1997;

(g) GEO Coordinator organized a panel on Learning Gender Justice at the United Nations Forum on Women, New York, United States of America, March 1997.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Such cooperation is described directly below:

(a) ICAE President participated in the Expert Consultative Meeting organized by UNESCO, Paris, France, 11-13 October 1995;

(b) The ICAE network in Latin America prepared a presentation for the 1995 UNICEF Consultation on Education for All, New York, United States of America, 10-13 October 1995;

(c) Coordinator of ICAE Learning For Environmental Action Programme (LEAP) participated in the UNICEF Canada National Education for Development Seminar, Toronto, Canada, January 1995;

(d) ICAE representative attended the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, March 1996;

(e) ICAE's regional network participated in the first UNESCO Arab Region NGO Consultation, Amman, Jordan, 10-14 March 1996;

(f) General Coordinator of the ICAE Gender and Education Office attended the ECLAC Seventh Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, 19-21 November 1997;

(g) ICAE Latin America's Vice-President attended the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UNESCO Fifth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA V) and participated in the drafting and editing of the final regional document, Brasilia, Brazil, January 1997;

(h) ICAE President and secretariat, Programme Coordinators, representatives from ICAE networks and members participated in the UNESCO Fifth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA V), Hamburg, Germany, 14-18 July 1997;

(i) General Coordinator of the ICAE Gender and Education Office attended UNESCO International Seminar-Workshop on Promoting the Empowerment of Women through Adult Education, Chiangmai, Thailand, 24-28 February 1997;

(j) ICAE President participated at the UNESCO's World Conference on Higher Education, Paris, France, 5-9 October 1998;

(k) ICAE President and members of ICAE's regional networks participated in regional and subregional follow-up meetings to UNESCO CONFINTEA V in Mexico City, Mexico, 26-27 January 1998; Cape Town, South Africa, March 1998; Washington, D.C., United States of America, 6-8 April 1998; Botswana, 6 May 1998; Manchester, England, 17-19 May 1998; Bangkok and Hua Hin, Thailand, 8-12

June 1998; Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 22-25 June 1998; Louvain la Neuver, Belgium, 17-20 September 1998; Helsinki, Finland, 2 October 1998; Montevideo, Uruguay, 17-20 November 1998.

Relevant activities

Relevant activities encompassed the following:

(a) ICAE and its Latin American network organized four workshops at the NGO Forum on Women during the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 3-8 September 1995;

(b) As a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the ICAE Gender and Education Office launched its book entitled *Gender, Education and Popular Economy*; organized the workshop entitled "Poor Women's Empowerment"; coordinated the Poverty Day at the Latin America and the Caribbean stand; and published the booklet entitled *Platform Beijing 95: An Instrument of Action for Women*, 1995-1996;

(c) ICAE Latin America's Vice-President drafted the preparatory regional document for the Latin American and Caribbean office of UNESCO's New Horizons for Youth and Adult Education in Latin America, Santiago, Chile, 1996;

(d) ICAE President met with officials of UNDP, UNIFEM and UNICEF to assure them of ICAE's continuing interest in interacting and playing a role in the ongoing debates, discussions and activities of the non-governmental organization/international non-governmental organizations groups in the United Nations forums, New York, United States of America, 2-7 February 1995;

(e) ICAE President and members of the ICAE Contact Group participated in a special consultation of experts to formulate a draft declaration and an agenda for action for Hamburg 1997, under the auspices of the UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg, Germany, 28 May-1 June 1996; also in the regional consultations leading up to CONFINTEA V 1997 as planned between UNESCO and member States in Jomtien, Thailand, September 1996, and Dakar, Senegal, October 1996;

(f) Coordinator of the ICAE Learning For Environmental Action Programme (LEAP) presented a report on "Environment adult education: awareness to environmental action" at CONFINTEA V, Hamburg, Germany, 14-18 July 1997; and at its follow-up meeting in Helsignor, Denmark, 21-23 July 1997;

(g) Coordinator of the ICAE Learning For Environmental Action Programme (LEAP) participated in the international policy workshop on education and learning for sustainable consumption hosted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, France, 14 and 15 September 1998;

(h) ICAE publicized the International Conference on Universal Rights and Human Values held to focus world attention on the vision of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Alberta, Canada, 26-29 November 1998.

5. International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Aims and purposes

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ) was created in 1969 as a membership association of Jewish lawyers and jurists. Its principal purpose is to contribute to the establishment of an international legal order based on the rule of law in relations between all nations and to promote respect for human rights and the equality of all peoples and States in order that they may live together in peace. IAJLJ also studies problems of particular interest to Jewish communities and to the State of Israel. It is thus mainly composed of Jewish members, while also being open to all lawyers and jurists who identify with the objects of IAJLJ, irrespective of belief, creed or any other distinction whatever. Its current membership comprises lawyers and jurists in 50 countries throughout the world, whether at the bar, on the bench, as judicial officials, legal advisers or academics.

Participation in subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

During the reporting period following the granting of special consultative status in August 1995, the representative of IAJLJ personally attended or closely followed proceedings of the fifty-second through fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the forty-seventh through fiftieth sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (subsequently renamed the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights). IAJLJ made the following oral statements to these two bodies:

(a) Commission on Human Rights:

(i) Fifty-second session: statement made on 29 March 1996 commenting on the report of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (E/CN.4/1996/95) and recommending the adoption of a convention based on the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

(ii) Fifty-third session: statement made on 19 March 1997 likewise commenting on the Special Rapporteur's report on the implementation of the 1981 Declaration (E/CN.4/1997/91) and the deterioration of the overall situation in this regard in the intervening year;

(iii) Fifty-fourth session: IAJLJ was principally concerned with the reform of its agenda and contacted many delegations of the Commission on this question, having in the previous year been active in the presentation of the non-governmental organization community's written statement on this matter;

(b) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: IAJLJ was similarly associated with making proposals for reforming this body's working methods presented by the non-governmental organization community. Furthermore, the IAJLJ representative made oral statements to the Subcommission as follows:

(i) Forty-seventh session: statement made on 25 August 1995 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief;

(ii) Forty-eighth session: statement made on 12 August 1996 on the role of the Subcommission in combating racism and racial discrimination and the contribution of its Working Group in promoting the implementation of the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(iii) Forty-ninth session: statements made on 12 August 1997 on the comprehensive examination of thematic issues relating to the elimination of racial discrimination, and on 27 August 1997 on terrorism and human rights.

IAJLJ participated in a seminar organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, held in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 1997, on the role of the Internet in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, intervening in the proceedings notably to contribute documentation produced in its periodical *Justice*, No. 12, of March 1997 and earlier issues, on the propagation of racist propaganda on the Internet.

IAJLJ has also closely followed developments at the sessions of the treaty bodies supervising the implementation of the human rights conventions, held in Geneva throughout the reporting period. *Justice* (No. 19 (1998), p. 23) contains an article on reporting by Israel to these bodies.

IAJLJ attended all sessions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Its representative consulted successive Directors of the Department of International Protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on issues arising with respect to the grant of asylum, instances of actual or feared denial of the principle of non-refoulement and the role of non-governmental actors in various countries in creating conditions giving rise to the well-founded fear of persecution, which the competent national authorities are unable or unwilling to remove.

Consultations

Also during the period under review, IAJLJ held consultations with officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Thus, following the grant of consultative status to IAJLJ, its President and the Geneva representative met the Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, early in May 1996 to introduce the IAJLJ's programme of activities in the field of human rights and to inform him of its principal preoccupations. Subsequently, following the concerns that IAJLJ had expressed in a statement which was formally adopted at its eleventh International Congress in Jerusalem on 31 December 1998 (published in *Justice* No. 20) and submitted to Mrs. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 25 May 1999, including several matters falling directly within her competence, a meeting took place between the United Nations High Commissioner, the IAJLJ President Judge Hadassa Ben-Itto and the IAJLJ Geneva representative on 8 July 1999, at which a constructive exchange of views took place. The United Nations High Commissioner agreed to

publish an article in the IAJLJ periodical *Justice* (it appears in the January 2000 issue).

Publications

As noted above, the principal publication of IAJLJ is *Justice*. Issued quarterly, it describes the Association's activities, including its triennial congresses, international meetings and seminars. It contains articles by learned academicians, judges, practitioners and other experts on legal issues of interest to the membership as a whole, including several articles on United Nations-related matters. In addition to those cited above, these include articles on the following subjects: the inaugural statement on religious intolerance made by the IAJLJ representative at the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (No. 7, p. 25); arms control and the United Nations experience in Iraq (No. 8, p. 17); report on the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (No. 10, p. 36); dangerous censorship of a United Nations rapporteur (No. 14, p. 10); and the International Criminal Court (No. 18, p. 19).

IAJLJ will be installing its web site on the Internet. The web site, to be operational in the course of February 2001, will feature articles published in *Justice* (including those cited above), which could be supplied as required.

6. International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Existence and goals of IFACAT

The International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (IFACAT) was founded in 1987 and was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1995.

In accordance with article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its purpose is to combat, throughout the world and by all appropriate legal means, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including capital punishment.

Composition and geographical distribution

As an international federation, IFACAT brings together national associations whose goals are compatible with its statutes.

As of late 1998, it had 19 affiliated associations and 8 in the process of becoming affiliated, as well as a number of correspondents.

International management

Mr. Patrick Byrne (Luxembourg) has been president of IFACAT since November 1998.

In addition to the President, the international bureau is made up of members from Spain, Switzerland, Canada, Togo, Mexico and France.

Independence

IFACAT is independent of all Governments and all partisan organizations.

It is financed by membership dues and grants. In exceptional cases, it might benefit from a subvention or aid in kind for an international project (colloquium or training session, for example) from a State, the European Union, the United Nations, or a Christian organization.

National Human Rights Commissions

Some of the affiliated associations participate in national human rights commissions in their areas of specialization.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council, in its subsidiary organs and conferences, and in other United Nations forums

Commission on Human Rights

Each year, IFACAT attends the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and contributes to its work by presenting written and oral statements on agenda items dealing with torture and capital punishment from a geographic and thematic point of view.

In addition to other statements made jointly with other organizations or delivered orally, IFACAT's chief contributions are as follows:

1995: "Favoriser la discrimination, c'est favoriser la torture" (Promoting discrimination means promoting torture) (E/CN.4/1995/NGO/27);

"Tout faire pour juger les tortionnaires" (Spare no effort to prosecute torturers) (E/CN.4/1995/NGO/3);

1996: "La torture au service de l'économie" (Torture serves the economy) (E/CN.4/1996/NGO/36);

"Pour abolir la torture, ne pas tricher avec la démocratie" (You can't abolish torture by shortchanging democracy) (ibid.);

1997: "Defenders of Human Rights: vital actors" (E/CN.4/1997/NGO/13);

"The international criminal court: the acid test for States" (E/CN.4/1997/NGO/52);

1998: "A commitment, not a memory!" (E/CN.4/1998/NGO/68);

"Refugees call out to the conscience of the world" (E/CN.4/1998/NGO/69).

IFACAT also cooperates closely with the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. It sends them information, and publicizes their appeals and their annual report.

Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (formerly the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities)

Each year, IFACAT attends the sessions of the Subcommission and contributes to its work by presenting written and oral statements on agenda items dealing with torture and capital punishment.

In addition to other statements made jointly with other organizations or delivered orally, IFACAT's principal contributions are as follows:

1995: "L'abolition de la peine de mort" (The abolition of the death penalty) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/NGO/4);

1996: "Les deux années à venir seront décisives pour la lutte contre l'impunité" (The next two years will be crucial in the struggle against impunity) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/NGO/4);

"Quelques sacrifiés de la diplomatie" (A few victims of diplomacy) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/NGO/3);

1997: "Torture at the heart of the judicial process" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/NGO/8);

"Torture used to terrorize the population" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/NGO/9).

Committees: Committee against Torture, Human Rights Committee, Committee on the Rights of the Child

IFACAT closely follows the work of these Committees and the periodic reports published by Governments. It collaborates with Committee experts and attends public meetings whenever it or its affiliated associations have information that could assist a committee in its consideration of a report. It also monitors, through the ACAT, the implementation of Committee recommendations in the field.

Working Group on the Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

IFACAT participates in the sessions and work of the Working Group (the latter is holding its eighth annual session in 1999). It submitted a comprehensive document to the Secretariat, containing comments, observations and suggestions following the first reading of the draft protocol; these proposals were taken into account in the working paper submitted by the Secretariat (E/CN.4/1994/WG.11/WP.1), which was used throughout the second reading. Another written statement was submitted for the sixth session in 1997.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993)

IFACAT played an active role in the Conference and is closely monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action, in particular activities related to torture and capital punishment, the ratification of human rights treaties and the establishment of an international criminal court. It appointed ACAT (Canada) to participate in the first review of that conference, Vienna plus five, which was held in Ottawa in 1998.

Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995)

IFACAT took part in this Conference and produced a written statement entitled, "With women — from words to actions".

Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, 1998)

IFACAT put great effort into the coalition of non-governmental organizations that worked, both before and during the Conference, to bring about the decision to create a permanent international criminal court and to adopt the related statutes. Two representatives of IFACAT took part in that Conference. IFACAT continues to observe closely the work of the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court, within the framework defined in General Assembly resolution 53/105.

Cooperation with United Nations organs and specialized agencies

IFACAT collaborates with UNESCO in the implementation of human rights education programmes: at the meetings it convenes, it sometimes distributes documents provided by UNESCO. In July 1997, at a training session for African human rights trainers, Mr. Ngakoutou, chief of the UNESCO democracy unit, led a course entitled "ethnocentrism and nationalism".

Other related activities

Actions for the implementation of United Nations resolutions:

(a) Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/40 on the draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (see above);

(b) General Assembly resolution 53/105 on the establishment of an international criminal court (see above);

(c) General Assembly resolution 52/149 of 12 December 1997 on the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: IFACAT, in collaboration with other non-governmental organizations belonging to the Coalition of International Non-Governmental Organizations Against Torture (CINAT) is conducting a campaign for the universal ratification of the Convention against Torture and for the communications procedures established under articles 21 and 22 of that instrument. IFACAT urges ACAT members to celebrate the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on June 26 in their countries.

Consultations and cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Secretariat: IFACAT provides information on funding needs to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, or itself provides funding support, in particular for specific treatment centres established by members of ACAT (Programa de Atención Integral a Sobrevivientes de la Tortura (Integrated Care Programme for Victims of Torture), Mexico; Trauma Centre, Cameroon).

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or provided to the United Nations, collaboration in the field, sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.

IFACAT has been offering human rights training sessions in Africa since 1992; since 1996, it has offered a biennial cycle of programmes for African human rights trainers and leaders in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in collaboration with the Catholic University of Central Africa and the Institute of Human Rights in Lyon. The first session is devoted to practical courses and workshops; it is followed by jointly sponsored inter-sessional projects. The second session deals with the evaluation of projects and a collective review. This human rights education and inculcation programme in Africa receives support from the United Nations Secretariat, particularly in the form of texts. Courses and workshops are devoted to familiarization with United Nations human rights protection mechanisms.

IFACAT reports regularly on United Nations activities in its bulletin *FIACAT News* and in the in-depth human rights studies it publishes. It also discusses such matters in its yearly progress report, which is published in book form and sold in bookstores, as well as in its training manuals.

7. Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights (CLADEM) is a regional organization for Latin America and the Caribbean that seeks to contribute to the promotion and defence of women's rights, incorporating the gender perspective into the theory and the practice of human rights. To do this, it articulates proposals for the elimination of the gender discrimination in the region. Our organization was established on 3 July 1987 in San Jose de Costa Rica and has its regional headquarters in Lima, Peru. Presently, the organization has liaisons and national connections in 17 countries of the region. CLADEM also has credited representatives in the three offices of the United Nations (New York, Vienna and Geneva) as well as in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) (Santiago de Chile). The present report covers the period 1995-1998.

Participation in conferences and other meetings

CLADEM representatives have participated in the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen), in the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), and in the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome). CLADEM participated in the fifteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (New York), in the fortieth, forty-first and forty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York), in the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission for Social Development (New York) and in the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva); also in CEPAL's seminar on "Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: CEPAL's proposals and the role of the civil society" (Santiago), in the first Follow-up

Regional Conference on the World Summit for Social Development of CEPAL (São Paulo) and in the VII CEPAL Regional Conference on Women's Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago).

Statements

During the Fourth World Conference on Women, CLADEM delivered a declaration that was distributed to all the official delegates. The areas of concern were women's human rights, with emphasis on violence against women, sexual and reproductive rights, political participation and the right to development.

CLADEM issued a declaration backing the document proposed by the Supervisory Committee for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, specifically addressing the justice of the norms contained in this instrument and the right of the groups and organizations to present statements and denunciations. Likewise, the governmental delegates of the countries of the region were requested to vote in favour of the Optional Protocol.

In the 1998 session of the Commission on Human Rights, CLADEM managed to introduce the Organization's Human Rights Declaration from a Gender Perspective proposal as an official document presented by a non-governmental organization in consultative status (E/CN.4/1998/NGO/3).

In five countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Panama and Peru), the organizations that are part of CLADEM have established monitoring instruments for their Governments on compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women ("Convention of Belem do Para") and the Beijing Platform for Action. Likewise, CLADEM Mexico Central South Zone participated in the elaboration of the shadow report of that country to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Cooperation with programmes, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations

Meetings were held with the delegates of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to coordinate how to carry out the follow-up of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, as well as how to achieve a more active participation in the writing of the shadow reports. We designated our regional coordinator as a member of the list of experts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. We had permanent contact at the meeting in Brazil and in general we remitted information for the elaboration of her reports to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. We held meetings with the delegates of the Division for the Advancement of Women on the implementation and follow-up of the platforms for action of the World Conferences. We also sent information to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

In 1998, we initiated the coordination with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, for the presentation of the shadow reports from Colombia and Chile which would be presented to CEDAW in 1999.

Other relevant activities

Our organization held its regional seminar entitled "Women's Human Rights in the World Conferences" where more than 60 women of the region (from civil society and governmental delegations) discussed the advances and setbacks in these events and also planned action strategies for the coming years related to the follow-up and monitoring of the final documents in our countries.

CLADEM's regional coordinator contributed to the United Nations publication entitled *Universal Declaration of Human Rights Fifty Years Later: Accomplishments for Victim/Survivors and for the Prevention of Victimization*, "Viewing the international human rights system from the perspectives of victim/survivor" (chap. 19).

CLADEM participated in the experts meeting on domestic violence called for by the Division for the Advancement of Women.

It is rightful to say that CLADEM's main activity during these years was a regional campaign on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the double purpose of, on the one hand, educating on human rights and, on the other, soliciting United Nations incorporation of women's human rights and the gender perspectives in a new international instrument. CLADEM elaborated various support materials for the campaign and the contents of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as its proposal of "Contributions to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", in 17 countries of the region and in other regions. Within the framework of this campaign, several CLADEM representatives interviewed the Director of the Division for the Status of Women and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, to whom were handed over 41,792 personal signatures and 343 institutional memberships collected up until that day. The interview took place on 10 December 1998 with the presence of the Chief of the Gender Analysis Section of the Division for the Advancement of Women. The issues reviewed were: the functioning of the network and the political-strategic significance of CLADEM's campaign entitled "Without women, rights are not human". Their commitment was to deliver the signatures, as well as the above-mentioned declaration, to Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, and they suggested also that CLADEM try to introduce the subject through the Commission on the Status of Women.

Publications

The magazine entitled, *The Wall and the Labyrinth*, published by the organization, discusses the results of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995. With this magazine, it is CLADEM's intention to highlight, taking as a starting point the role of the organization, the aspects that CLADEM has considered more relevant in terms of information as well as analysis, aside from this being useful as raw material to transform whatever has been achieved on international grounds into a local reality.

CLADEM published the brochure entitled *Human Rights for the XXI Century: Contributions to the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from a Gender Perspective*.

Pamphlets, brochures and other campaign material for *Human Rights for the XXI Century: Contributions to the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from a Gender Perspective* were printed.

CLADEM published the book *Summit Meetings, Consensus and Later ... Women's Human Rights in the World Conferences*.

Membership

CLADEM has liaisons and national contacts in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela.

8. Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) was established on 30 January 1980. It is the largest non-governmental organization in the Islamic world working in the field of human settlements. OICC is a non-political organization. Its main goal is to achieve sustainable development in its member cities. Its main objectives are to: strengthen bonds of friendship, brotherhood and solidarity among member cities; promote, develop, and expand cooperation among member cities; preserve the identity and heritage of member cities in accordance with their socio-economic, cultural, and environmental characteristics; and upgrade the standards of public services and utilities in member cities. Since its first affiliation with the Economic and Social Council in 1991, OICC has been promoting the United Nations principles and related activities, particularly those of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda. This has been achieved through intensified activities with the United Nations and other international organizations. These activities, of which a selected number are listed below, have been undertaken through OICC bodies including the General Conference, Administrative Council, General Secretariat, Cooperation Fund, Training Centre for Development, and Technical Cooperation Programme. OICC has strong and active relationship with all major international and regional local government non-governmental organizations. OICC has resident representatives to the United Nations in New York and Rome. OICC has sat on the Executive Committee of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) since 1992. Moreover, the organization maintains active relationship with the Arab Towns Organization, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the United Towns Organization (UTO), the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLA), the African Towns Association and the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB). OICC developmental efforts have included multifaceted joint activities with its member cities, the United Nations system, national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and funding agencies. OICC has attended the preparatory meetings of the major United Nations conferences since 1992. It also attended the United Nations conferences in Rio, Vienna and Istanbul. Moreover, OICC is also dedicated to the promotion of the protection of climate through its Declaration on Climate Change and its cooperation with ICLEI.

The organization's representatives:

(a) Attended the United Nations/Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations weekly briefings in New York (1995-1998);

(b) Attended the third, fourth and seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York (1995, 1996, 1998);

(c) Attended World Habitat Day meeting, New York, 2 October 1995;

(d) Participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) preparatory regional meeting, Rabat, Morocco, 25-30 September 1995;

(e) Participated in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Dubai International Best Practices Award meeting, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 19-22 November 1995;

(f) Attended the United Nations workshop on the mechanism for non-governmental organizations inputs into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Geneva, Switzerland, 2 March 1996;

(g) Participated in the Arab Group preparatory regional meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Amman, Jordan, 11-14 March 1996;

(h) Attended the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996;

(i) Attended the United Nations/Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Annual Meeting, New York (1995-1998);

(j) Attended the ESCWA session, Amman, Jordan, 25 and 26 March 1997;

(k) Attended the 19th Special session of the General Assembly, 23-28 June 1997;

(l) Participated in the UNDP International Conference on Governance and Sustainable Growth and Economy, United Nations, New York, 28-30 July 1997;

(m) Attended the World Habitat Day meeting, United Nations, New York, 6 October 1997;

(n) Attended the regional conference on the Habitat Agenda entitled "Local Perspective, Media Forum, and Sustainable Urban Environment", United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Beirut, Lebanon, 6-8 October 1997;

(o) Participated in the Mayor's International Forum on Cities and Desertification, United Nations/IFAD, Rome, Italy, October 1997;

(p) Attended the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Training Workshop on the Use of Urban and Housing Indicators, Amman, Jordan, 27-30 April 1998;

(q) Attended the fourth United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Regional Arab Conference on Partnership and Capacity-Building as Foundation for Urban Sustainable Development, Cairo, Egypt, 22-25 June 1998;

(r) Attended the Habitat Day celebrations and meetings in Rabat, Morocco, and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 5 October 1998;

(s) Attended the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Regional Conference on the City and the Twenty-first Century Challenges, Rabat, Morocco, 5-7 October 1998;

(t) Attended the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3-14 November 1998;

(u) Participated in the Lead Poisoning Seminar, United Nations, New York, 23 May 1997;

(v) Participated in more than 50 events throughout the world held by a variety of regional and international agencies other than the United Nations throughout the period 1995-1998 on issues related to United Nations agendas.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies was as follows:

(a) The Organization initiated, co-sponsored, and implemented, jointly with the former Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, and the Egyptian Ministry of Local Government, the "International Seminar/Exhibition on Geographical Information Systems (GIS), City Sustainability and Environment, Cairo, Egypt, 9-14 December 1995;

(b) The Organization produced a CD-ROM for the United Nations/Department for Development Support and Management Services/OICC International Seminar/Exhibition on GIS, City Sustainability and Environment, Cairo, Egypt, 9-14 December 1995;

(c) The Organization cooperated, co-sponsored and participated in the reparation and resource mobilization of the United Nations/World Bank International Round Table on Transportation Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, April-December 1998 (the Round Table was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 4 to 7 December 1999).

Other relevant activities:

(a) The organization re-initiated its request to UNESCO for consultative status in May 1998;

(b) The organization continues expanding its global membership, which has reached 143 cities, as well as producing its regular publications.

9. World Safety Organization

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Introductory statement recalling aims and purposes

The following report recounts some of the activities of the World Safety Organization (WSO) at the United Nations for the quadrennial period 1995-1998. It is recalled that the purpose of WSO since its founding in Manila in 1975, reaffirmed when it relocated to the United States of America in 1985 during tumultuous times in the Philippines, has been to internationalize the safety and accident prevention movement and spread as widely as possible throughout the world the benefits of

practices, skills, arts and technologies of safety and accident prevention. Protection of people, resources, environment and property has always been the major focus of WSO activities and programmes. WSO is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian, multidisciplinary, multicultural international professional organization working in the public interest. It receives no support from any sources other than membership dues, conference fees and publication, professional attire and accessories income.

Summary of WSO activities on behalf of the United Nations for the period 1995-1998

WSO has global professional interests in safety, health and environmental protection. Therefore, for example, WSO has participated in conference proceedings (notably the sixth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development) and Dr. Seiden, WSO Main Representative, has made various contacts with ILO, UNDP and other agencies. As time progresses, WSO would hope to contribute to substantive United Nations concerns consistent with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, part IV, paragraphs 28-32, and part V, paragraphs 34-39. Paragraph 39 entitled "Special studies" is of particularly critical interest to WSO since WSO has organizational expertise and commitments in safety, health and environmental protection, which are significant areas of concern to diverse United Nations agencies, programmes, organizations etc.

WSO has applied for reclassification from special to general consultative status. Its original application was submitted in 1998, and a second one in 1999 after the first was evidently lost during renovation and relocation of various offices at the United Nations. It is understood the application will be acted upon in June 2000.

Public information and relations are "substantive" areas of United Nations concern since, on balance, it is largely through civil society grass-roots outreach programming of the United Nations that groundwork is laid for later application of United Nations resources around the world to solve international problems. In this spirit, Dr. Seiden has written extensively on behalf of WSO as its main representative to the United Nations.

He produced a limited-edition manual for WSO distributed within WSO and the United Nations entitled *The United Nations: A Managerial Focus and Framework for Understanding* in addition to a much more expansive one for the education of WSO-United Nations representatives. A copy of each was deposited in 1998 with the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Resource Centre. His small brochure, also written for WSO for general distribution is entitled *What is the United Nations and What's in it for US? The Work of the United Nations and its Benefits to the United States*. Both of these publications were offered to various offices at the United Nations for their unlimited use. The larger manual was entitled *Operations, Resource and Training Manual for WSO Representatives and Liaison Officers to the United Nations*.

Also in preparation since 1997, recently completed and submitted in May 2000 to Dr. Hanifa Mesoui of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for her approval prior to presentation of a copy by WSO to the Secretary-General is the manuscript for a new book completed by Dr. Seiden entitled *Problem-solving in the Third Millennium: The Ergonomics and Management of Problem-solving*. This book addresses a pervasive problem-solving "virus" which he terms "defeatability proneness".

A unique programme originally conceived by him several years ago (late 1998) but only recently inaugurated owing to the pressures of business is a tour programme, whereby groups of people representing various non-governmental organizations are bussed to New York United Nations Headquarters. Dr. Seiden provides a 15-20 minute briefing on the United Nations en route to the United Nations. Two tours of this type were finally programmed and conducted in 2000. They basically include a tour of the United Nations combined with a luncheon in the Delegates Dining Room. Where feasible, there is an emphasis on those works included in the United Nations art collection that are publicly accessible. Thus, this particular programme will span two quadrennial reports, namely, 1998 and 2002. It is envisioned that the programme concept and preliminary procedures manual will be bequeathed by WSO to the Department of Public Information for its use in encouraging other non-governmental organizations to participate in such a programme and implement it in their own areas. (Dr. Seiden has arranged such tours thus far for local New Jersey groups.)

Some WSO publications contain references to the United Nations including one WSO tech letter containing an article on sustainable development prepared by Dr. Seiden for the WSO membership. In 1995, two tech letters and one news letter carried articles on the United Nations. These are related to its origins, milestones and achievements, and support for the United Nations by WSO on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. In 1998, Dr. Seiden made a kick-off presentation on the United Nations at the WSO Twelfth Annual World Safety and Accident Prevention Congress in Dallas, Texas.

WSO has conducted Global Safety Round Tables at its Annual World Safety and Accident Prevention Congresses and publishes the proceedings thereof. It publishes an International Consultants Directory annually and its newsletters, during the period 1995-1998, have carried articles on occupational health and safety in a multicultural environment, child safety from a global perspective, radiation processing in public health: the potential in Ghana, overview of the current activities of the European Community in the field of injury and accident prevention, safety management in Czech plants, moving into the Asia-Pacific region? a corporate checklist for health planning, emergency response, safety training for Russian oilfield workers, WSO Board of Certified Governmental Safety and Environmental Health Officers etc. There also have been various articles on WSO certification programmes and boards, which are international in scope.

In addition to the above, WSO representatives have attended various weekly Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations briefings. Owing to pressures of time and personal commitments, these have had to be carefully selected on the basis of relevance to WSO priority interests. Although the WSO world view is panoramic, it has been virtually impossible for any WSO representative to attend more than, perhaps, one meeting a month on average, even in the case of Dr. Seiden who, however, has been able to schedule greater coverage when required including, for example, attendance at every meeting of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. His predecessor main representative, Mr. Larry Gell, attended virtually every briefing and videotaped them while he was active at the United Nations on behalf of WSO. These videotapes are filed in the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Resource Centre in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library building.

In 1998, a logo designed by Dr. Seiden was offered to the Commission on Sustainable Development for consideration as its own logo. Although WSO has not been contacted by the Commission as yet, WSO hopes that it may ultimately prove to be of interest to either the Commission on Sustainable Development or the United Nations generally. This logo is believed by WSO to be descriptive of the sustainable development process and its holistic integration of people, resources, technology and the environment for the "world good".

During 1998, Dr. Seiden prepared a product safety standard for WSO entitled "World Safety Standard on Product/Physical Safety — WSO/PPSS 01.1-1998". Copies of this standard were distributed at the 1998 World Safety Congress referred to above. The standard not only incorporates provisions relating to the "Standard Rules of Practice (ROP) for Safety and Accident Prevention", but also emphasizes the human factors and ergonomics approach to safety problem-solving. Consistent with the overarching United Nations focus on human rights, the Standard contains the following specification in its definition of ergonomic design: "... ergonomically acceptable designs incorporate, among other things, human rights content".

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1. International Federation for Hydrocephalus Spina Bifida

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Introduction

The International Federation for Hydrocephalus Spina Bifida (if) aims to disseminate information and expertise throughout the world to families, individuals, professionals and volunteers involved in the field of hydrocephalus and spina bifida (H&SB), support new national organizations, work towards international exchanges in relation to this, and influence legislation.

if has extended its contact network to 40 countries on all continents and supports new organizations, especially in developing countries like Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Guatemala, the United Republic of Tanzania, Chile, Brazil, Hungary, Romania and the Baltic States.

Biannual study meetings have been organized since 1979; since 1997, by decision of the General Meeting, meetings are now held annually, alternating between continents. The two most recent meetings were in Germany in 1997 and in Washington in 1998.

if has organized workshops and met with groups to disseminate information to member countries and has conducted meetings with parents in various places to increase expertise of existing groups and to encourage the setting up of new self-support groups.

if is building up an International Clearing House on Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida.

if has established projects in several developing countries in East Africa.

if is expanding rapidly. Since 1996 if has new members in Guatemala, Turkey and Venezuela and has received applications for membership from Chile and Mexico, which will be considered by our 1999 General Meeting. Conferences are now held annually and the number of issues per year of our magazine has doubled.

if now has a site on the Internet (http://www.asbah.demon.co.uk/ifhsb.html) and our magazine, *BackUp*, can be seen on our web site.

In 1997 if started a pilot programme for early detection, treatment and rehabilitation of children with hydrocephalus and spina bifida in Dar es Salaam. In 1998 this programme was extended to Kenya, Uganda and Guatemala.

if is building a hydrocephalus and spina bifida ward in the new disability hospital in Dar es Salaam.

if has created an if award to encourage research into hydrocephalus and spina bifida.

if funding

if relies for funding on the support of its member associations and on sponsorships. if received support from the International Disability Foundation (IDF) which hosted the if office. if received subventions from private sponsors and commercial companies; if receive a subvention from the Government of Flanders

(Belgium). NORAD, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, has funded the Africa project since 1998. Several foundations funded specific projects (Foundation "A New World", Medtronics and Oever).

if's conferences in Europe were co-funded by the European Commission. Conferences were also co-funded by our Australian, German and United States members in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

if publicizes information on United Nations activities

Information is regularly sent to if members and other contacts via our magazine, *Federation Focus*, now called *BackUp*, four times a year; attention was given to United Nations activities in the following issues: 1995: No. 19, Front cover and page 4; 1996: No. 22, page 18; 1997: No. 23, pages 3 and 5; 1997: No. 24, page 10; 1998: No. 25, page 10; 1998: No. 26, page 4 and No. 27, pages 4 and 13. These articles were also posted on the Internet.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar accepted an invitation to be the patron of our conference in Bonn. Present Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited our office in the International Disability Centre in Ferney-Voltaire, France.

In conjunction with the Platform for Handicap and Development Cooperation (PHOS), if organized from 1 to 3 December 1997 an international seminar in Brussels on the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and Community-based Rehabilitation: a critical view.

if has had discussions with its membership on the question of elimination late in pregnancy of babies with hydrocephalus and spina bifida (and other disabilities) and recently contacted Bengt Lindqvist, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development and the International Disability President's Alliance (IDPA) on this subject.

International exchanges

if organizes international exchange by means of its own international conferences.

if organizes workshops on H&SB in East Africa for the whole region.

if organizes international training for professionals working with H&SB in developing countries.

if organized international activities in cooperation with its own members and other international organizations, such as Mobility International, during 1996/97 for young people and children with hydrocephalus and spina bifida. These included wheelchair training, sports activities and two projects, "Towards womanhood", and "VOICE (Vision of Independence Control and Empowerment)", which were aimed at building confidence, new skills, improving lifestyles and encouraging greater participation in society in general. German-Austrian-Swiss exchanges enabled new friendships to be formed and increased confidence.

if cooperation with other NGOs

if cooperates with, among others, the Swedish Organizations of Disabled International Aid Association (SHIA), NORAD and the Swedish (SIDA) and Danish (DANIDA) development agencies.

if published an important book in 1996 in collaboration with WHO, the International Association of Physiotherapists and the International Association of Occupational Therapists. There has been considerable demand for this publication worldwide, and if has approached WHO with a view to a new edition being considered. A new, updated edition of "Promoting the Development of infants and young children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus: a guide for mid-level rehabilitation workers" would include sections on recent advances in prevention and treatment of spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

if supported IDF with advice and contributions to programmes and to the *World Disability Report*. if is working on different projects jointly with the Liliane Foundation: cooperation in Nairobi, Uganda and Tanzania by funding help for individuals in our projects and organizing training for their mediators. The Liliane Foundation also helps individuals in developing countries where if has no projects. if was also cooperating during this period with Mobility International for international youth exchanges and participated in their workshops, to share expertise.

if participation in Economic and Social Council and United Nations meetings and working groups and cooperation in United Nations programmes

if's President, Pierre Mertens, participated in a UNDP sub-working group meeting on technical aids for the disabled, on 26 June 1995 in Brussels and 17 February 1996 in Copenhagen.

if forwarded a written statement on prevention to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Social Development on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

if was represented by the President of the Spina Bifida Association of America, William Tirrell, at the NGO meeting on 12 September 1997 in New York.

if consultation and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

if signed a memorandum of understanding in June 1993 on collaborative arrangements with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and forwarded a mid-term report in 1995 and a full report in 1996.

if collaborates with the International Standards Organization and UNDP.

2. International Federation of Industrial Energy Consumers

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Summary

The International Federation of Industrial Energy Consumers (IFIEC) represents — as an example — approximately 80 per cent of the industrial energy

consumption in Europe. Activities of the Federation have seen a certain shift towards environmental topics, as the environmental aspects of energy consumption and production have gained in importance in recent years. As a result, IFIEC's cooperation with United Nations bodies, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNEP/UNFCCC), in particular, has increased considerably. Membership has grown by seven new national federations from Central Europe and South America.

Aims and purposes of IFIEC

IFIEC's fundamental objective is to cater for the needs of the industrial energy consumers in discussion with political decision makers at all levels, national, regional and international, and by promoting cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular the United Nations, in relation to energy issues affecting the long-term competitiveness of consuming energy industries, covering issues such as:

(a) Proper balance between energy use and environment;

(b) Responsible industrial energy management based on rational use;

(c) Voluntary measures for the reduction of greenhouse gases;

(d) Energy taxation;

(e) Harmonization of energy policies;

(f) Creation of regional internal energy markets and networks.

The following national federations became new members of IFIEC:

Central Europe

Bulgaria	Bulgarian National Committee of Industrial Energetics Mr. Lyuben Mashkin, Chairman
Czech Republic	Asociace Energetických Manazeru Mr. Ing. Václav Simunek, Executive Director
Romania	National Association of Energy Consumers from Romania — ANCER, Mr. Constantin Miu, President
Slovak Republic	The Slovak Energy Inspection L. Mikula (observer status)

South America

	IFIEC South America (Asociación Interamericana de Consumidores Industriales de Energía)
Members	Argentina, Brazil ("old" member of IFIEC), Chile, Peru, Uruguay
	President: Ricardo Fragueyro AGUEERA (Asociación de Grandes Usuarios de Energía Eléctrica en la República Argentina)

Participation in the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies

IFIEC has been attending regularly the meetings of the Working Party on Energy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in particular the Electricity Committee and the Gas Committee. IFIEC also used to participate in the meetings of the previous Chemical Industry Committee of ECE which recently, however, has become a victim of budget cuts and has been dissolved. Various representatives of IFIEC had attended, in particular, the annual meetings of the aforementioned ECE committees in the years 1995 to 1998.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

More recently, IFIEC has been very active in participating in the work of UNEP and UNFCCC. Among the more important meetings attended by the President and several board members of IFIEC were:

Conference of the Parties (COP), Berlin, 1995 (UNFCCC);

International workshop in connection with the work of the Conference of the Parties (International Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (IEA/OECD));

Conference of the Parties, second session, Geneva, July 1996 (UNFCCC);

Subsidiary bodies meeting, Bonn, February/March 1997;

Eighth session of the ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, Bonn, November 1997 (UNFCCC);

Third Conference of the Parties, Kyoto (Japan), December 1997 (UNFCCC);

Fourth Conference of the Parties, Buenos Aires, November 1998 (UNFCCC).

Other relevant activities

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

In connection with the preparation of the Kyoto conference, the President and several board members of IFIEC had a consultation with the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, Michael Zammit Cutajar, on 28 July 1997.

There had been also several meetings of various board members of IFIEC with the Executive Secretary of ECE, Yves Berthelot, concerning cooperation in the field of energy.

Preparation of papers

In the course of the Third Conference of Parties to UNFCCC, representatives of IFIEC presented two papers, "Liberalization of electricity markets" and "Tradable permits". Other papers were submitted on the occasion of various COP sessions.

Sponsorship of meetings

During the eighth session of the ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate in Bonn, IFIEC held a workshop on "The role and contribution of intensive energy industry on the climate change debate". This workshop was attended by over 100 delegates to the UNFCCC meeting.

3. International Federation of Little Brothers of the Poor

(Special consultative status granted in 1983)

Introduction

For over half a century this volunteer-based organization, founded in Paris by Armand Marquiset in 1946, has as its primary purpose to address the problems of isolated and/or handicapped elderly people in need.

The International Federation was created in 1979 in order to group together national organizations of Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly/*Les petits frères des pauvres*. At present, such national organizations are established in the following countries: France, Morocco, the United States, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Spain and Germany.

In addition to material assistance as needed, members seek to provide friendship and affection to their elderly friends through visits, social activities and holiday outings for those who would otherwise have none. Moreover, since the beginning of its existence the organization has been the initiator of many advanced projects that have subsequently served as models in the realm of service to the elderly. Today special attention is directed to the needs of two population segments in particular. First and primarily served are extremely old and dependent elderly. More recently attention has been focused on "young elderly" (55-65 years) suffering from long-term unemployment and unable, in the current economic climate, to find a means of supporting themselves until reaching official retirement age, thereby running the risk of becoming the elderly poor of tomorrow.

Activities 1995-1998

United Nations meetings and conferences attended

The Executive Director took part in the Workshop on Population Ageing in Europe and North America at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 13 and 14 February 1995. At the conclusion of the workshop, delegates drafted a message to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995).

In September 1995 the Executive Director attended the Department of Public Information/NGO annual conference, "The United Nations at the turn of the century: global issues, global actors, global responsibility", at United Nations Headquarters. The Executive Director also took part in the 1996 annual conference, "The United Nations: facing the challenges of a changing world", held at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 12 September. In 1997 the Executive Director again attended the annual DPI/NGO conference, "Building partnerships", held at United Nations Headquarters.

On 25 and 26 June 1998 the Executive Director attended as an observer the board meeting of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

The Executive Director attended the annual DPI/NGO conference, "The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: from words to deeds", at United Nations Headquarters 14-16 September 1998.

Internal activities pertaining to the United Nations relationship

At the biennial General Assembly meetings of the International Federation held in Chicago (1995) and Mont-Evray, France (1997), the Executive Director reported to the Assembly on issues and activities involving the International Federation and the United Nations. At these meetings posters and information sheets from the United Nations concerning the United Nations and ageing, in several languages, were made available to delegates. The United Nations Principles for Older Persons are included in the special training packet provided to new volunteers in Chicago. In addition, the Executive Director regularly reports to the executive board concerning his liaison with the United Nations and disseminates all appropriate information.

Many members of the International Federation celebrate the International Day of Older Persons (1 October). In Quebec the member association uses this date to award an annual Prix Armand Marquiset to an individual and an organization for outstanding service to the elderly.

The Mexican member association participates in a week-long campaign for the *dignificación del anciano* terminating with a large festival in a public square on 1 October.

The Chicago organization marks the day with an international party for the elderly where all present, in this multi-ethnic city, are invited to present a song, a poem or a dish of food typical of their original culture or language.

The French organization *Les amis des petits frères* sponsored numerous events on 1 October 1995 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Day of Older Persons.

In 1998 the international Federation began extensive preparations to mark the International Year of Older Persons in 1999.

4. International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee

(Consultative status granted in 1987)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) is an international non-profit association registered in Belgium and incorporated under Belgium law (identification No. 111049/89).

The stated purpose of CITA is:

(a) To facilitate the exchange of information and experience among its members about matters within the field of compulsory inspection of in-service motor vehicles and their trailers with regard to road safety and/or the protection of the environment;

(b) To propose, coordinate and develop studies and scientific inquiries to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of inspection of in-service motor vehicles and trailers carried out to meet compulsory periodic test requirements or inspections carried out by enforcement authorities.

Activities include:

(a) Standardization of the inspection methods;

(b) Standardization of the inspection conditions applicable to the different categories of vehicles;

(c) Improvement and standardization of quality control, assurance and accreditation systems and standards used to ensure the consistent application of the pass and fail criteria;

(d) Improvement and standardization of information systems which hold data on inspection and which are used to improve inspection consistency and to increase the effectiveness of police inspections;

(e) Improvement of the professional training of the personnel appointed to carry out the compulsory inspections of in-service motor vehicles and their trailers;

(f) Cooperation with the European Union and United Nations (Economic Commission for Europe) institutions and relevant public and private international or national bodies on the matters above;

(g) Generation of expert proposals to contribute to the improvement of road safety and to the protection of the environment.

Increase in geographical membership

Since 1994 the number of CITA members increased geographically:

Europe: Estonia, Latvia, Croatia, Portugal, Northern Ireland, Slovakia, Romania

Africa: Tunisia, Algeria

Oceania: New Zealand.

CITA also maintains contacts with Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Ireland, Burkina Faso, Gabon, South Africa, Lithuania, Norway, China and the Russian Federation.

Changes in sources of funding

There have been no substantial changes in the sources of funding (membership fees).

Affiliation to an international NGO in consultative status

CITA has no such affiliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Attendance at meetings

CITA's representative to ECE (Geneva), Georges Verdon, attended meetings of the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP.29) on the ECE Inland Transport Committee and some of its expert meetings when items relevant to periodic roadworthiness testing (compulsory periodic vehicle inspection) were on the agenda. More specifically, he attended the one-hundred-and-ninth through one-

hundred-and-sixteenth sessions of the Working Party as well as thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the Working Party in Pollution and Energy, the forty-third session of the Working Party on Brake and Running Gear and the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Working Party on Noise.

Statements

CITA's participation at the one-hundred-and-sixteenth session of WP.29 (10-13 November 1998) was referred to in the report (TRANS/WP.29/640) as follows:

> *"(e) Cooperation with the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)*
>
> "...
>
> "30. Considering the question of a revision of the Consolidated Resolution R.E.1, annex 2 — Periodic Inspection of Vehicles — checks to be carried out, WP.29 supported the request of WP.1 to invite the assistance of the International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) in updating this annex. (...)"
>
> *"1997 Agreement on Periodical Technical Inspections*
>
> "128. "...the expert from CITA recalled that the expertise of his organisation had allowed to develop requirements for periodical technical inspections and that CITA was ready to assist their further development also in the framework of Agreement on Periodical Technical Inspections of 13 November 1997."

Further to the above remarks made during the one-hundred-and-sixteenth session of the Working Party, CITA received in the beginning of 1999 a formal request for assistance from the WP.29 secretariat. CITA replied positively to both requests.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

See the information provided above.

Other relevant activities

CITA cooperates closely with the institutions of the European Union.

CITA is represented by its Technical Adviser in the Technical Adaptation Committee on Roadworthiness Testing under the presidency of Directorate General VII (Inland Transport) of the European Commission. The European Union and WP.29 are increasingly cooperating to ensure conformity between their legislations and to avoid duplication in their work.

CITA organizes international meetings, attended by members and non-members:

1995 – Third CITA Technical Symposium (Ghent, Belgium);

1996 – Fourth General Assembly (Helsinki);

1997 – Fifth Extraordinary General Assembly and Fourth CITA Technical Symposium (Antwerp, Belgium);

1998 – Sixth CITA General Assembly (Bonn).

Seven working groups are active within CITA:

1. Exhaust Emissions
2. On-Board Diagnostics
3. Quality Assurance
4. New Test Items
5. Brake Testing
6. Scope of Roadworthiness Testing
7. Electronically Controlled Systems

CITA publishes every two years a survey (CITA General Questionnaire), collecting and analysing information on roadworthiness testing throughout the world.

A newsletter (*CITA News*) is published three to four times a year in English and/or French. It includes, among other things, an item on developments in ECE.

5. Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions

(Special consultative status granted in 1973)

Introduction

The Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE) is an international non-governmental organization which represents institutions that finance development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its aim is to promote the cohesion, strengthening and participation of financial institutions in social and economic fields of the region.

The permanent headquarters of ALIDE is in Lima. The headquarters is at the centre of a system of national coordinators and institutional contacts throughout Latin American and Caribbean countries.

ALIDE is financed by its members and by international cooperation organizations and agencies. The annual budget is supplemented by the generation of its own revenue from tertiary services.

Objectives

The objectives of the organization are:

(a) To strengthen the functioning and participation of financial institutions in the social and economic fields in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) To encourage the exchange of information and coordination and cooperation between members, with the aim of optimizing the use of the resources available, and to support the institutions in their goals, to modernize its management structure and to widen its support in the process of economic change in the region;

(c) To establish the systematic reciprocal exchange of information;

(d) To undertake studies of problems of common interest which reflect the philosophy and objectives of development banking as a national and regional system;

(e) To encourage business management and regional financial cooperation as a means of promoting the organization's contribution to the Latin American integration process.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Secretary-Technical attended the Sixth Technical Consultation on the Scheme for Agricultural Credit Development (SACRED) organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Amman, from 22 to 24 May 1995.

The Secretary-General attended the deliberations of the High Level Ministerial Range Regional Meeting of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Montevideo, from 19 to 22 September 1995. The Secretary-General presented a written statement entitled "The panorama of industrial development financing in Latin America".

The Head of the ALIDE Documentation Centre attended the Fifth Consultation Meeting of the Information Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOLAC) organized by the Latin America Information Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Lima, from 4 to 6 October 1995.

The ALIDE National Coordinator in Venezuela attended the Latin America and Caribbean Consultation and Coordination Meeting prior to the Ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX) held in Caracas from 16 to 17 January 1996.

The Vice-President of ALIDE attended the NGO Consultation in relation to the World Food Summit organized by FAO in Asunción, from 30 June to 1 July 1996.

The ALIDE Liaison Officer in Paraguay attended the twenty-fourth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Asunción from 2 to 6 July 1996.

The ALIDE Adviser on International Finance Cooperation attended the High Level Ministerial Range Seminar on "Industrial policies for competitiveness" organized by UNIDO in Lima from 5 to 8 August 1996.

The Documentation Centre specialist attended the seventh regional meeting of CDS/ISIS software distributors organized by UNESCO in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The specialist presented a written statement about ALIDE action in distributing CDS/ISIS.

The Secretary-Technical attended the Seventh Technical Consultation on SACRED in Tehran from 4 to 7 May 1997.

The Secretary-Technical attended the expert meeting on "Challenges and perspectives in information management and information technology" organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago from 26 to 28 November 1997.

The Chief of the Economic and Research Department attended the international teleconference "World Food Summit: promises and perspectives", convened by FAO in Lima on 30 October 1997.

The Secretary-Technical attended the UNIDO Intechmart in Cartagena, Colombia, from 7 to 9 June 1998. The Secretary-Technical presented a written statement entitled "Perspectives of the action of development banks and ALIDE in the framework of an increased regional and financial cooperation".

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In the area of studies and research, ALIDE collaborates with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the areas of economic research and development policies.

In the field of agricultural financing, ALIDE collaborates with FAO. A joint study, "Guarantees in rural lending", was published in 1996 in the framework of the ALIDE-FAO programme.

FAO sponsored the two following Latin American ALIDE meetings: thirteenth Latin American meeting on agricultural financing, Santiago, 2 to 4 November 1995 and fourteenth Latin American meeting on agricultural financing, Brasilia, 9 to 11 October 1996.

With the purpose of complementing activities in the field of financing and promotion of industrial sector development, a memorandum of agreement was signed in July 1996 between ALIDE and UNIDO. This resulted in the joint organization of a seminar on "Techniques of identification, formulation, evaluation and promotion of investment projects for countries of the Andean region" held in Lima from 17 to 19 July 1997.

In the field of external trade, ALIDE exchanges information with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) about trade flows between developing countries.

In the information and documentation area, the ALIDE Documentation Centre and Regional Information Network (RIALIDE), maintains cooperative relations with UNESCO.

6. National Bar Association, Inc.

(Special consultative status granted in 1985)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the National Bar Association is "... to advance the science of jurisprudence, uphold the honour of the legal profession, promote social intercourse among the members of the bar, and protect the civil and political rights of all citizens of the several states of the United States" and the world.

The purpose of this report is to give the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations information about the activities of the National Bar Association, Inc., such that we retain our "special" status for the next four years.

Our NGO is committed to promoting the rule of law throughout the world. Almost all of our international activities focus on transnational legal institutions, lawyers and legal systems.

We are the only mainstream organization of African American attorneys which holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. We represent at the Council the perspectives of peoples of colour worldwide as they face the adversities of legal problems within their lives.

We expect to play a pivotal role in the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held in South Africa in 2001.

Moreover, the annual National Bar Association international affiliate meeting in countries outside of the United States allows us first-hand knowledge of the legal problems of others and their legal systems.

Increase in geographical membership

The geographical membership of the National Bar Association has increased beyond the United States to several countries throughout the world. The total membership is 20,000. There are 87 local affiliates and 14 international affiliates.

Changes in sources of funding

There have been no such changes.

Affiliation to any international NGO in consultative status

We have no such affiliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conference and other United Nations meetings

NBA has been represented at the following meetings:

(a) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995 and at the NGO Forum at the Conferences;

(b) Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 1995-1998; in 1997 we made an oral intervention on "The rights of African Americans and people of colour worldwide to be free from economic subjugation";

(c) Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva, Switzerland, 1995-1998;

(d) United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (ICC), Rome, June/July 1999;

(e) First session of the Preparatory Commission for ICC, United Nations Headquarters, 16-26 February 1999;

(f) Second session of the Preparatory Commission for ICC, United Nations Headquarters, 26 July-13 August 1999.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

NBA sent observers to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 1997 and 1998, and to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, 1995 and 1996.

Other relevant activities

NBA held international meetings in South Africa (1995), Accra (1996), Bahia, Brazil (1997), and Tanzania and Kenya (1998).

With respect to the banana tariff issue, NBA held a seminar in Jamaica in 1997 on the fairness of the removal of protective tariffs for the banana trade in selected Caribbean countries.

NBA sent a delegation in 1994 and in 1995 to South Africa to prepare for the elections and then subsequently to be observers for the election; a delegation went to South Africa for post-election observations in June 1996.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

The National Bar Association adopted resolutions at its annual meetings in 1995-1998 on issues of international concern:

(a) The relationship between political parity and economic development in South Africa;

(b) The need to support the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda with donations of goods and services;

(c) The fairness of the removal of protective tariffs for the banana trade in selected Caribbean countries;

(d) Resolutions (1996) on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

NBA has had consultations and cooperated with officials in the Department of Human Resources Management of the United Nations concerning a donation from Westlaw on-line legal research services to the two international criminal tribunals. The donation of unlimited use of on-line legal research services for four years is worth millions of dollars in in-kind services to the tribunals.

Presentations

At a workshop of the Amnesty International Midwest Regional Conference, held on 31 October 1998 at University of Cincinnati College of Law, Cincinnati, Ohio, NBA made a presentation on the topic "The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: compromise of victory or disaster?"

Professor George Edwards, NBA member, gave a briefing on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Hong Kong at the Human Rights Committee meeting in November 1999.

NBA made a presentation entitled "Fifty years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 10 December 1948-10 December 1998 and beyond", to the Amnesty International Indianapolis Chapter, 14 December 1997.

7. International Prison Watch

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The object of the organization International Prison Watch (OIP) is to monitor prison conditions in all parts of the world and to draw attention to cases where the human rights of prisoners may be violated.

The organization is made up of individuals committed to ensuring respect for the rights of persons deprived of their liberty. Its mission is threefold: to monitor, to highlight problems and to protect. Its work is based on international human-rights instruments which call for the elimination of torture and ill-treatment, the application of international standards in the treatment of prisoners, and the prohibition of unlawful and arbitrary detention. OIP also rejects by all appropriate means the imposition and execution of the death penalty.

International Prison Watch seeks, free from any political consideration and with due respect for the law, to call the attention of the authorities and public opinion to any shortcomings identified in the prison system.

It encourages the citizens of each country to take an interest in prison conditions.

It has developed a network of over 250 contacts throughout the world. Its partners include not only associations for the promotion and protection of human rights, but also ordinary individuals, citizens who are determined to ensure respect for human dignity.

OIP can boast 12 national branches, some already established and others in the process of being set up (Argentina, Belgium, Burundi, Cameroon, Ecuador, France, Lebanon, Madagascar, Senegal and Sierra Leone).

Since its creation, it has published six annual reports on prison conditions throughout the world. In addition, in 1998, it published a world report on child prisoners.

It has had consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1995. It participates regularly in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (formerly the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities) in Geneva.

At the fifty-third session of the Commission in 1998, OIP made an oral statement under agenda item 10 in which it drew attention to massive violations of human rights being perpetrated in Chad and Indonesia involving arbitrary and mass arrests, summary executions, torture and rape. In its statement under agenda item 8, it expressed concern also on behalf of its local partners at the conditions facing prisoners in Latin America, and, more specifically, in Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela. As its observation missions had shown, due process of law is not always

guaranteed in those countries when it comes to arrest and detention procedures. Arrests are routinely accompanied by humiliation and violence.

At the Subcommission's fiftieth session, in August 1998, OIP delivered an oral statement under agenda item 2 expressing grave concern over the plight of prisoners who had received sentences of death in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan and Pakistan. In a further statement, it also drew attention to the scale of the violence observed in prisons in Venezuela, Colombia and Peru.

In its oral statement under agenda item 8, it drew the Subcommission's attention to the situation of prisoners suffering from human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in African prisons.

Its statement under agenda item 9 focused on the situation of minors subjected to deprivation of liberty in different parts of the world, with particular reference to the use of the death penalty in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America and Yemen.

During the fifty-first session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in August 1999, the organization made a statement under agenda item 9, and focused on two issues: prison conditions in South America (Argentina and Paraguay), and the situation of female prisoners. The statements on prison conditions in Argentina included questions addressed to the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations. Since then, the Argentine branch of OIP has held regular meetings with the Argentine authorities on instances where the human rights of prisoners may have been violated in that country.

In addition to making oral statements, OIP has taken advantage of the Commission and Subcommission sessions to meet members of other non-governmental organizations and representatives from different countries.

The team working on the programme concerning minors in prison took part in the sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child held at Geneva between 1997 and 1999, attending meetings and submitting alternative reports on the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in countries to which visits had been made under that programme.

OIP has also worked in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in the context of an international conference on HIV/AIDS in African prisons. Together with its regional delegation for Africa, it steered the organization of an international conference on HIV/AIDS in African prisons held at Dakar from 16 to 18 February 1998. The conference, which was organized in collaboration with Senegal's national anti-AIDS campaign, was attended by a large number of partners, including UNAIDS in Switzerland, the United Nations Development Programme in Dakar and New York and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa.

It should further be stressed that consultative status is a vital tool in assuring the success of observation and investigatory missions at detention centres. In keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations human rights instruments, OIP uses its consultative status to persuade the authorities to give it access to detention centres. OIP representatives have carried out observation missions in more than 20 countries since 1995. They have been able to visit prisons and police stations in 15 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad,

Chile, Ecuador, Lebanon, Madagascar, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain and Venezuela) and have interviewed prison administration officials and representatives of the judiciary, to whom they have submitted their findings and recommendations. Mission reports are written as part of the follow-up, and a note is prepared for the OIP's annual report on prison conditions throughout the world. All of these documents are released to Governments, the embassies of the countries concerned, international organizations, local human rights and humanitarian organizations, as well as to the media during press conferences. All reports and questions concerning observed violations of rights systematically refer to our consultative status with the United Nations.

8. Resources for the Future

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Resources for the Future (RFF) is a non-profit and non-partisan think tank that conducts independent research — rooted primarily in economics and other social sciences — on environmental and natural resource issues. RFF is a publicly funded organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our operating budget is derived from investment income, government grants and contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

RFF's involvement with the United Nations has come primarily through our Climate Economics and Policy Programme, which conducts and disseminates research related to domestic and international climate change policies. RFF staff from the Climate Economics and Policy Programme have worked extensively with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in recent years, including by participating in the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Buenos Aires in 1998.

RFF staff have worked closely with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on many levels. We have participated in several working sessions of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Policy Forum. We have been involved with UNCTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a member of the International Working Group on the Clean Development Mechanism. And RFF staff contributed written material to the "Design and Implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism" draft report prepared by UNCTAD as a product of the International Working Group on the Clean Development Mechanism.

In addition, RFF has devoted substantial resources to disseminating the activities of UNFCCC through the establishment of a web site known as Weathervane (http://www.weathervane.rff.org). Weathervane is an on-line forum designed to provide the news media, legislators, opinion leaders and the interested public with analysis and commentary on policy initiatives related to climate change. The aim of Weathervane is to provide a balanced and objective forum for the careful climate change analysis that is essential in policy-making. To help accomplish this goal, Weathervane features:

(a) "Perspectives on policy", an on-line forum in which we solicit the views of key voices from academia, Government and industry on issues related to climate change and the ongoing international negotiations;

(b) "At the negotiating table", a venue where we track all international activity related to the Kyoto Protocol;

(c) Feature articles. Weathervane posts approximately four new feature articles each week that provide insight into breaking news in the climate change arena;

(d) "Climate issue briefs", short reports providing timely, topical information and analysis about climate change issues to a broad non-technical audience. A full inventory of "Climate issue briefs" can be accessed at http://www.weathervane.rff.org/archives/climatebriefs.html.

Weathervane has logged more than 2 million hits and hosted more than 85,000 user sessions since it was established in July 1997. In addition to visitors from the United States, we have interacted with visitors from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Austria, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Italy, Malaysia and Brazil.

Beyond climate change, RFF's researchers produce approximately 50 research papers and a dozen books and reports each year on issues ranging from electric utility restructuring to sustainable forestry. All research at RFF is guided by the notions that sensible environmental policy must balance the costs and benefits of proposed alternatives, and that once environmental goals are established, we should accomplish these goals in the most inexpensive way possible. All of RFF's recent research can be accessed through our main web site: http://www.rff.org.

9. Simon Wiesenthal Center

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Introduction

Founded by its present Dean, Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Simon Wiesenthal Center is an international Jewish human rights organization with a membership of 440,000. Established in Los Angeles in 1977, it draws the lessons of the Holocaust to the analysis of contemporary issues.

The Center carries the name of the Nazi investigator who has brought over 1,100 war criminals to the bar of justice. Still active in his ninety-first year in the city of Vienna, his purpose in granting his name to an institution in his own lifetime was to prevent a recurrence of the Holocaust for any people.

His Center today is truly international, with offices throughout the United States and regional bureaux in Toronto, Paris, Jerusalem and Buenos Aires. Though the majority of membership are in North America, there are expanding support groups in the United Kingdom, across Europe and in Latin America. The Center maintains an extensive global network of correspondents on human rights issues.

It has held NGO status at sessions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

and is represented on the Executive Board of the European Network against Racism (ENAR), which has consultative status with the European Commission and the European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network (RAXEN) in Vienna.

Even before achieving consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Wiesenthal Center had already worked in cooperation with such United Nations specialized agencies as UNESCO:

(a) Holding a joint conference in Paris in 1992 on "Educating against prejudice — the case of resurgent anti-Semitism". This resulted from a meeting between Simon Wiesenthal and UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor that addressed the incipient problem of "technology in the service of hate", i.e. the pernicious effect upon young people of neo-Nazi computer games;

(b) In 1993, Mr. Mayor opened the Center's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles — a hi-tech human rights laboratory, since then visited by over 3 million people. This educational arm is directed to youth and, by interactive pedagogy, sets personal challenges in confronting the dilemmas of democracy and the Culture of Peace. Such world leaders as the late King Hussein of Jordan, President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, the Dalai Lama, the late President Herzog of Israel, diplomats and members of United Nations missions have visited and spoken from its podium. The museum is the focus for the civic action "Tools for tolerance" programme that trains military personnel and law enforcement agents towards sensitivity to social pluralism.

Participation in United Nations meetings

At the close of the United Nations Year for Tolerance in November 1995 in New York, Simon Wiesenthal addressed the General Assembly as a delegate of Austria. In his statement, he warned the global community of the potential for atrocity in the former Yugoslavia, urging immediate international measures. As a result, the Center was involved in several Year of Tolerance pedagogical initiatives in European educational institutions through its mobile 40-panel exhibition "The courage to remember" and its Oscar-winning documentary film, "Genocide".

In 1996, the Center's Associate Dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, sounded an alarm on "Hate, terrorism and mayhem on the Internet" at the Commission on Human Rights session in Geneva.

During the European Year against Racism in 1997, the Center organized an international high school essay competition together with UNESCO and the European Parliament. The 28 laureates from 15 countries were received at both organizations' headquarters in Paris and Strasbourg, respectively, where they were received by the Parliament's President and UNESCO's Director-General.

In 1998, the Center "premiered" its second Oscar-winning documentary, "The Long Way Home", at the United Nations Office at Geneva, co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the United States. The film is a case study of the refugee phenomenon (survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, confined in Western internment camps from 1945 to 1948, seek safe haven — a home).

In the same year, the Center held a conference on "Past and present — from Nuremberg to The Hague" at United Nations Headquarters. Participants included United States Senator Christopher Dodd, *Newsday* Pulitzer prize-winning journalist

Roy Gutman, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, Mohamed Sacirbey, emeritus Chairman of the United Nations Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the Former Yugoslavia, Cherif Bassiouni, the Center's Washington, D.C. legal counsel, Martin Mendelsohn, and the Director of the Center's Task Force against Hate, Mark Weitzman.

On 19 March 1999, the Center distributed its CD-ROM "Digital hate 2000", exposing some 1,500 Internet sites that promote racism and violence. This was given to every United Nations delegation.

On 4 November 1999, the Center opened "Visas for life: the righteous diplomats" at the United Nations Office at Geneva. This exhibition honoured diplomats who during the Second World War courageously rescued thousands of Jews from the Nazi Holocaust. They included Hiram Bingham, Jr. of the United States of America, Aristedes de Sousa Mendes of Portugal, Chiune Sugihara of Japan and Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden. The exhibition will also open in the Visitors' Gallery Museum Exhibit area of United Nations Headquarters on 3 April 2000, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Center will be bringing especially from Europe several of the surviving diplomats.

Cooperation with specialized agencies

In June 1999, the Center organized, together with UNESCO, an international conference in Moscow on "Tolerance-building for civic society — against extremism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism" under the patronage of the Mayor of Moscow, the Ministry of Nationalities of the Russian Federation, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Presidential Commission on Human Rights and the Russian National Commission of UNESCO.

In the same month, the Center held, together with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, and in the framework of the UNESCO Culture of Peace programme, an international colloquium in Vienna on "Confronting crimes against humanity — from human rights to international responsibilities", with a special session on "Kosovo in the mirror of Nuremberg".

Other relevant activities

The following events were held at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles:

(a) 29 October 1998, "Artists and refugees: war-exiled Bosnian women weave the fabric of hope". This exhibition was presented in cooperation with the Susret Art Workshop in Austria, the Austrian Consulate General of Los Angeles and the Austrian Cultural Institute of New York, and Soroptimist International. Composed of 45 tapestries, quilts and rugs handcrafted by Bosnian women refugees in Austria together with drawings by children traumatized by the ethnic violence in the Balkans;

(b) 5 December 1998, "Reunions: the lost children of Rwanda". This exhibition, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, was sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company and Life Magazine. The 6,000 portraits included were part of the over 20,000 photographs displayed in refugee camps, intended to reunite lost Rwandan children with their families;

(c) 25 February 1999, "International symposium and eyewitness report on slavery in Africa today: a call for freedom", co-sponsored by the American Anti-Slavery Group, Inc. and Loveland Church. The symposium features first-person accounts from escaped slaves and historians with interactive discussion on effective international responses;

(d) The Wiesenthal Center in 1994 launched ARARE (Academic Response to anti-Semitism and Racism in Europe), currently comprising over 500 rectors and professors of all faiths and disciplines at universities in more than 30 countries across Europe. ARARE conferences have included "Resurgent Fascism as a threat to minorities" (Oxford, United Kingdom, 1994), "From xenophobia to tolerance — Jews and Muslims" (Paris, 1995), "The smiling face of Fascism" (London, 1996), "World War II combatants and neutrals — shattered myths and deconstructed memories" (Brussels, 1997), "Hate on the Internet — dangers and realities" (Paris, 1998), "Fifty years of human rights — visions and realities" (Prague, 1999);

(e) The Center, through its Moriah Films Division, has produced four full-length documentaries, two of which have won an Academy Award: Genocide (Oscar 1981), Echoes that Remain (based on Eastern European film archives opened after 1989), Liberation (on the Normandy landings), The Long Way Home (Oscar 1998 for its study of the refugee phenomenon).

Simon Wiesenthal, the man, will mark his ninety-first birthday on 31 December 1999. Still active in combating the consequences of totalitarianism, he has said "I have received many honours in my life. The greatest honour is that the Center that bears my name will ensure that my work is continued: ..."

10. World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations

(Special consultative status granted in 1947)

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is a worldwide Christian, ecumenical, voluntary movement for women and men with special emphasis on and the genuine involvement of young people, which seeks to share the Christian ideal of building a human community of justice with love, peace and reconciliation for the fullness of all creation. The World Alliance of YMCAs represents the YMCA at all levels by providing leadership on thematic issues, Christian mission, youth and gender, justice and human rights issues, development, capacity-building, responses to emergencies, communications and research.

The organization's representatives in New York, Geneva and other centres have attended various United Nations meetings throughout the reporting period. There are over 35 million members of YMCAs all over the world. This does not include programme participants who do not pay membership fees but are recipients of YMCA services. There are no accurate statistics of their numbers, but broad estimates suggest that the YMCA has a reach of double the membership, which means that at least 70 million are affected by YMCA interventions.

The organization closely follows the agendas of the United Nations and attends briefings on special subjects, especially those related to the organization's priorities. Because the YMCA is so diverse in its work around the world, documents received from United Nations sources are often helpful to one or another of the YMCA

movements around the world. The World Alliance of YMCAs also joins NGO-related events organized around United Nations conferences. Frequently the organization co-signs statements with other organizations.

Actions in implementation of United Nations resolutions include:

(a) Meetings with officials of the United Nations and its agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Centre for Disarmament, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, etc.;

(b) The World Alliance of YMCAs often duplicates copies of relevant circulars from the United Nations for member national movements with a view to making them aware of and becoming involved in the issues at the national and local levels;

(c) Many United Nations issues are on the global agendas of the worldwide YMCA. Some examples include: women, population, health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, housing for the poor, landmines, disability, drugs and substance abuse, poverty elimination, racism, refugees, rights of children, disarmament, migrants and asylum-seekers, cultural development, literacy, Palestinian rights and globalization;

(d) A number of national and local YMCAs have worked with United Nations agencies at their levels;

(e) On average, the World Alliance of YMCAs has 8-10 representatives who follow activities at the United Nations Offices in Geneva and at Headquarters. Our relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris have decreased in the past few years. However, there is an attempt to revive this relationship and the YMCA in France will act as the representative of the World Alliance in Paris;

(f) Articles published in *YMCA WORLD*, the quarterly publication of the World Alliance of YMCAs, have dealt with issues emanating from the United Nations.

11. World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

(Special consultative status granted in 1983)

WFMUCW is a global Christian women's organization which has grown from 7 million members in 70 countries to 7.5 million members in 74 countries between 1995 and 1998. Its purpose is "To know Christ and to make Him known". The organization aims at:

(a) Developing a global sisterhood of spiritual fellowship and shared values;

(b) Witnessing through social action in the areas of community, national and international life;

(c) Identifying needs and issues and creating projects for developing the quality of life of women and children;

(d) Education, social and spiritual ministries.

Funding is mainly through voluntary subscription by members.

In pursuing its purpose and aims, WFMUCW has worked closely with the United Nations during the reporting period, using its special consultative status to the maximum of its resources. Issues such as the advancement of women and human rights, in particular the rights of women and children, have been given high priority. Other issues covered include peace, development, employment, child labour, health, older persons and harmful traditional practices.

WFMUCW is currently a member of the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and a member of the NGO Committee on UNICEF. Renate Bloem, a WFMUCW representative in Geneva, was elected Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and convenor of two working groups. WFMUCW also serves on the NGO Special Committee on Human Rights, on the NGO Committee on Development, on the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Subgroups on Sexual Exploitation, Child Labour and Children in Armed Conflict. Renate was also elected during this period to the Coordinating Committee of the NGO Forum for Health.

The following is a summary account of participation by WFMUCW in Economic and Social Council bodies, other United Nations meetings and United Nations world conferences, as well as submission of statements:

(a) 1995: Inter-sessional working group of the Commission on the Status of Women, submission of text proposals on the "non-papers" for the Platform for Action for the Fourth World Conference on Women on the Girl Child and Women's Human Rights (January); oral statement, Committee on the Rights of the Child (January); Commission on Human Rights, oral statement on the Girl Child on behalf of 41 NGOs, joint statement on women's rights, joint statement on methods of work of the Commission (March); NGO Consultation of the Commission on the Status of Women on new text proposals for the Platform for Action (March); Economic Commission for Europe, joint NGO statement on follow-up to the high-level regional preparatory meeting (April); United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, oral statement on sexual exploitation of the girl child (May); Economic and Social Council, substantive session (July); meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to discuss Follow-up of world conferences, special session of the Economic and Social Council with a panel of CONGO members, joint NGO statement on concerns for delay of accreditation for some NGOs to the Fourth World Conference on Women (July); informal consultation on the Platform for Action, submission of proposals on the paragraph on religion of the Platform for Action (August); NGO Forum, Huairou, China, workshop/panel on girls at risk and Trafficking of Women under the patronage of Queen Fabiola of Belgium, ecumenical engagements (September); Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (September);

(b) 1996: CONGO Board (January); working group on the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, oral statement at the Committee on the Rights of

the Child (January); Consultation at UNICEF on the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (February); consultation in Strasbourg on preparations for the regional meeting on sexual exploitation (February); International Women's Day panel speaker (March); Commission on Human Rights, oral statements on women's human rights and sexual exploitation of the girl child (April); European Consultation for World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Strasbourg, represented the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (April); Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, oral intervention on sexual exploitation and report on Strasbourg meeting (June); CONGO Board (June); World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, intervention in plenary and workshops (August); UNICEF workshop on children in armed conflict (October); General Assembly of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (October); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe symposium on social protection and older persons at risk, intervention (November); Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, joint statement on globalization and citizenship (November); symposium on religion and Beijing Conference panellist (November);

(c) 1997: Committee on the Rights of the Child, intervention on child labour of girls (January); elected to Coordinating Committee of NGO Forum for Health (February); NGO Consultation and Commission on the Status of Women (March); Commission on Human Rights, start-up of a caucus on women's human rights, statements on violence against women and on sexual exploitation, trafficking and child labour (April); NGO Group on the Rights of the Child, task force on child labour, intervention (April); World Health Assembly, intervention on gender (May); NGO Health Forum Assembly, statement on gender and Beijing (May); Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, intervention on sexual exploitation and child labour of girls (June); International Labour Conference, task force on child labour panel on better jobs for women (June); CONGO Board with Secretary-General Kofi Annan (June); Economic and Social Council, substantive session, panel on gender mainstreaming (July); presentation on the girl child to the United Nations Graduate Study Programme (July); workshop in Austria on child sexual abuse and the churches (July); Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, statement on the human rights of women (August); NGO shadow report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Government of Sierra Leone at the request of the NGO Committee on the Convention (October); CONGO General Assembly, re-election to CONGO Board (November); special discussion on the right to food during the session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, intervention on a woman's perspective (December); NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (December);

(d) 1998: Committee on the Rights of the Child, follow-up to the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (January); WHO Executive Board (January); ILO task force on child labour (February); CONGO Africa regional meeting, various interventions and rapporteur on the adoption of the Kampala declaration (February); NGO Consultation (Co-Chair) and Commission on the Status of Women (February/March); Chair of panel discussion on the invisible forms of child labour (March); Commission on Human Rights, organized a women's human rights caucus bringing more visibility to gender-related human rights

violations, and organizing orientation and training sessions for new NGOs on the gender perspective and on the girl child (April); World Health Assembly and NGO Forum for the Assembly, speaker and co-Chair of symposium on the effects of globalization on health (May); International Labour Conference, organized a round table on child labour, gender and education (June); CONGO Board (June); WFMUCW Conference for the extended European area on violence against women and girls, adoption of the Stavanger Declaration (July/August); Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, statement on women and girls and harmful traditional practices (August); Committee on the Rights of the Child, intervention on HIV and the girl child (September/October); expert consultation on violence in the family (October); NGO Group for the Committee on the Rights of the Child (October); mission to South Africa, presentations on violence against women (November); Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Harare, presentation and workshop on abuse and exploitation of children (December).

12. World Futures Studies Federation

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Introduction

The World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF) is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization that aims to:

(a) Introduce futures-oriented thinking in all branches of knowledge and action;

(b) Promote futures studies in general and encourage innovative, interdependent and critical thinking across all disciplines, cultures and peoples;

(c) Promote networking between individuals and organizations concerned with futures; and

(d) Promote awareness of threatening futures problems and of prospects for better futures, as well as of the need for institutionalized futures studies to help resolve these problems and realize better futures.

Founded on 26 May 1973 in Paris, WFSF emerged from the ideas and pioneer work of eminent social scientists like Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, Bertrand de Jouvenel, Johan Galtung, Robert Jungk, John McHale and others who, in the 1960s, conceived of the concept of futures studies at the global level, to address the increasingly complex problems of the times.

WFSF is currently composed of 65 institutional members and 475 individual members from 71 countries across all continents of the world. To maintain independence of thought, the Federation is funded mainly by the membership payments of its members. For courses and conferences, host universities/institutions and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization mainly support the Federation.

The Federation has formal consultative status with UNESCO and enjoys close cooperation with the United Nations University, the United Nations Development

Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. It is also an associate member of the International Social Science Council. Throughout its history, WFSF has been supported by various national, international and regional institutions such as Mankind 2000, the Club of Rome and Futuribles, with the secretariat hosted every four years by the different academic institutions from among its members in different countries around the world.

Cooperation with the United Nations

The Federation cooperates with the United Nations mainly through promoting activities that support the goals and thrusts of the Organization.

In 1995-1997, in particular, WFSF collaborated closely with the Analysis and Forecasting Unit of UNESCO in drafting the Declaration on the Responsibilities of Present Generations Towards Future Generations and a WFSF Executive Board member, Ziauddin Sardar, delivered a speech at a UNESCO meeting held in October 1997.

Members also regularly and actively contribute articles and papers to the UNESCO publications *Futuresco* and others. During the reporting period, "The future of human rights and democracy" and "Impact and future challenges of new communications technologies", two entire volumes of futures-oriented literature written mostly by WFSF members, were published in *Futuresco* No. 5 (June 1996) and No. 6 (October 1996), respectively. Other publications during the period in support of United Nations thrusts are:

(a) "The futures of communications", a report on a WFSF course in Andorra, October 1994, by Ihsan Inayatullah and Obijiofor, published in *Futures*, vol. 27, No. 8, pp. 897-903;

(b) "The futures of the university", a report on the Southern Cross University course, by Gidley, Wildman and Inayatullhah, published in Lismore, Australia, 1995;

(c) "Futures of peace, civilizations, structures and visions", a report on the Asia-Pacific Futures Course in the Philippines in November 1994 by Elliott and Pandan, published in the WFSF *Futures Bulletin*, vol. 21, No. 2, June 1995;

(d) *The Future of Democracy in the Developing World*, selections from the WFSF Regional Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, October 1992, by Azam, Dator and Inayatullah (eds.), 1995;

(e) *Futures Beyond Poverty — Ways and Means Out of the Current Stalemate*, selections from the fourteenth WFSF World Conference in Nairobi, 25-29 July 1995, by Ogutu, Malaska and Kojola (eds.), 1997; and

(f) Proceedings of the Nordic Regional Symposium, March 1997, in progress.

Courses and conferences for the period are:

1. *Kondratieff Ideas and Dynamics of Society on the Borderline of the 3rd Millennium, 7th Interdisciplinary Discussion: Ecofuture — A Road to Catastrophe*

or to Nooshpere?, in collaboration with the Kondratieff Foundation, Russia, March 1995;

2. *Futures Beyond Poverty*, 14th WFSF World Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, July 1995;

3. *Creating A 21st Century Philippines — Futures in Education and Futures of Education*, workshop in collaboration with the Philippine Futuristics Society, Philippines, September 1995;

4. *The Futures of Universities*, workshop at and in collaboration with Southern Cross University, Australia, November 1995;

5. *Futures in Education*, workshop in collaboration with IKD and the Malaysian Ministry of Education, Malaysia, December 1995;

6. *Visioning for the Future and Educational Perspectives*, an Asia-Pacific Introduction to Futures Studies Course, Malaysia, June 1996;

7. *Approaches to Sustainable Development: Problems of the Baltic Region, Europe and the Globe*, St. Petersburg, Russia, July 1996;

8. *The Future of the Welfare State*, a futures methodologies course in Reykjavik, Iceland, 20-22 March 1997; and

9. *Global Conversations: What You and I Can Do for Future Generations*, 15th WFSF World Conference, Brisbane, Australia, September-October 1997.

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1. Cousteau Society

Special consultative status granted in 1995

Aims and purposes

The Cousteau Society is a non-profit, membership-supported organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the quality of life for present and future generations. Founded in 1973 by Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau (1910-1997), the Society has more than 150,000 members worldwide. The Society believes that only an informed and alerted public can best make the decisions necessary to protect and manage the world's natural resources.

Cousteau teams have explored the water system throughout the world for the past five decades. Their unique observations have been documented in more than 40 books, eight sets of filmstrips, four feature films and 120 television documentary films which have helped millions of people understand and appreciate the fragility of life on our water planet.

The Society's commitment to education is further advanced by its publications — *Calypso Log*, for adults and *Dolphin Log*, its award-winning children's magazine. The Society also speaks in testimony and counsel to governing bodies and leaders on issues of global concern and supports a wide range of environmental protection efforts at the national and international level.

Participation in United Nations activities

The Cousteau Society has participated actively in a number of United Nations conferences, including the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCED), the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the 1995 World Summit on Social Development. Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Cousteau Society staff participated in each of these important meetings and in the preparatory sessions leading up to them. The Society is also interested in the implementation of the programmes of actions adopted by these conferences.

The Society has participated in the annual meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development every year since its inception and the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 to review the results of UNCED. It regularly consults with government officials, particularly the United States delegation, on various agenda items and related issues.

The Society publishes articles in its magazines on a wide range of issues of interest to the United Nations. *Calypso Log*, for example, regularly reports on the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development and on issues of general interest to the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies, including agriculture research and food production, fisheries management, biodiversity, population, sustainable development, and water issues.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In recognition of the Year of the Ocean (1998), the Cousteau Society, in cooperation with UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, conducted a four-month exploration of the Caspian Sea. The Society's vessel *Alcyone* visited all five countries surrounding the sea, documenting its activities through film and written material. The expedition stressed the need for international cooperation in the sustainable management of critical resources, including sturgeon, wetlands and energy resources.

Over the past decade, the Cousteau Society has also worked closely with UNESCO in developing recommendations on the right of future generations to a healthy environment. The Society's "Bill of Rights for Future Generations" was submitted to the Executive Council of UNESCO in the fall of 1994. In September 1997, after several years of consideration, a working group of governmental experts agreed to a draft declaration on the safeguarding of future generations, based on the proposal originally submitted by the Cousteau Society.

The Society closely followed activities related to the International Conference on Water and Sustainable Development (Paris, March 1998) and participated in meetings leading up to the Conference.

Other relevant activities

As a non-governmental organization with long-term involvement in environmental and sustainable development activities, the Cousteau Society has a broad interest in many of the activities undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations. The Society is particularly interested in the implementation of international conventions on biodiversity, climate change, fisheries, and desertification.

With its focus on marine issues, the Cousteau Society has urged the development of a protocol on marine biodiversity conservation under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Society also promotes the sustainable development of small island developing States and is a strong supporter of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), a partnership among nations seeking to implement chapter 17 of Agenda 21 for the benefit of coral reefs and related ecosystems. In this regard, the Society participated in the development of the "renewed call for action" which ICRI developed during the first International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium, (Townsville, Australia, November 1998).

The Cousteau Society has developed a number of substantive recommendations for the conservation of coral reefs which it has advanced at the national and international level. The Society has also continued to work with the World Bank to help direct further attention in this area (e.g., 1997 World Bank Conference on Challenges and Opportunities for the Sustainable Management of Coral Reefs, dedicated in memory of Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau).

2. Four Directions Council

Special consultative status granted in 1983

Aims and purposes

Four Directions Council was organized by the grass-roots leadership of five like-minded indigenous nations in North America. Its principal aim has been increasing the accessibility and responsiveness of the United Nations system to indigenous peoples, with a view to advancing the struggle of indigenous peoples for self-determination, and encouraging peoples to play a larger role in addressing global issues such as sustainable development and peacemaking.

Changes in focus and operations

As the relationship of indigenous peoples to the United Nations has changed, Four Directions Council has shifted the focus of its work. The turning point occurred in 1993, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, which Four Directions Council had promoted actively, from the Commission on Human Rights to the level of the General Assembly. by 1993, indigenous peoples had achieved recognition as a "major group" at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and as distinct holders of individual and collective rights at the World Conference on Human Rights. The draft of a declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was completed and submitted to the Commission on Human Rights, and the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/214, had called for the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations.

Although indigenous peoples had made considerable progress in gaining access to United Nations decision-making processes by 1993 and had grown visible and outspoken at United Nations conferences and meetings, it became clear to Four Directions Council that:

(a) Transnational corporations and trade liberalization had become the principal threat to the lands and survival of indigenous peoples in the 1990s;

(b) The primary responsibility for global management of trade and investment had been assigned to international bodies such as the World Trade Organization in which indigenous peoples had thus far played no role at all;

(c) The United Nations system had not yet established a capacity for effectively supporting indigenous peoples at the grass-roots level in urgent struggles with corporations over lands and resources.

Indeed, the United Nations had not taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the Centre on Transnational Corporations in its report "Transnational investments and operations on the lands of indigenous peoples" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/40), including the recommendation for the creation of a United Nations database in this field.

Four Directions Council resolved to take the initiative and re-focus its activity on the evaluation and management of corporate conduct and international trade as

they relate to the lands and territories of indigenous peoples. Three principal goals were set:

(a) Establishment of a network of indigenous peoples' organizations at the grass-roots level, particularly in the developing countries, for the exchange of strategic information about their experiences in dealing with particular corporations and industries;

(b) Preparation and publication of technical studies of corporate conduct and of the most effective approaches indigenous peoples have found for achieving some measure of control over corporate activities within their traditional territories;

(c) Promotion, among indigenous peoples, of strategies for obtaining effective access to the international and regional bodies responsible for managing trade, finance, intellectual property rights, and the development of private international law.

Four Directions Council activities had been carried out entirely by unpaid community volunteers. No fund-raising had been done, and there had been no budget. Of necessity, that would change in 1994, when it became apparent to Four Directions Council that achieving its new goals would require considerable research and administration.

Significant new activities since 1994

To support the development of an information-sharing network and preparation of technical studies, Four Directions Council has, since 1994:

(a) Established collaborative relationships with three academic programmes that serve indigenous peoples (the Department of Native American Studies at the University of Lethbridge, the Native Law Centre of the University of Saskatchewan, and the Institute for Indigenous Government in Vancouver, British Columbia) and with First Peoples Worldwide, a newly established international development foundation controlled by indigenous peoples;

(b) Obtained more than $100,000 in research grants and contracts from the MacArthur Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Labour Organization, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. These funds have been used to employ students (chiefly indigenous people) to conduct research and to maintain regular telephone contact with cooperating grass-roots indigenous organizations in developing countries;

(c) Organized a documentation centre at the University of Lethbridge (in the heart of the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy) with United Nations documents and print, interview and multimedia materials obtained from indigenous communities through the network.

Preliminary results of initiatives

As a result of these initiatives, Four Directions council has been able to contact and exchange strategic information with more than 150 grass-roots indigenous peoples' organizations (86 per cent of them in 19 developing countries), chiefly by

telephone and fax, and to build an extensive case-study database on the conduct of transnational corporations and the responses of indigenous peoples.

The first publication resulting from this new programme of work, *Effective Negotiation by Indigenous Peoples: An Action Guide with Special Reference to North America*, includes case studies written in collaboration with community activists from six North American indigenous nations. It was issued by the International Labour Organization in June 1997.

A second book, *Corporate Conduct and Indigenous Peoples: Impacts, Strategies, Outcomes*, is in preparation. It will include case studies written in collaboration with community activists from 20 indigenous peoples in Latin America, South-East Asia, North America, and the Russian Federation.

In addition, Four Directions Council has contributed to information workshops on globalization; trade liberalization, and indigenous peoples throughout Canada and the United States, with the aim of mobilizing North American indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations to take advocacy initiatives at the WTO, WIPO, and regional trade organizations.

In addition to these new initiatives, Four Directions Council has continued to send representatives to the annual sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the working group of the Commission on Human Rights entrusted with elaborating a final text of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Representatives also attended meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Vancouver International Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Council (APEC).

3. International Electrotechnical Commission

Special consultative status granted in 1979

Aims and purposes

Founded in 1906, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. IEC was founded as a result of a resolution passed at the International Electrical Congress held in St. Louis in 1904. The membership consists of more than 50 participating countries, including all the world's major trading nations and a growing number of industrializing countries.

IEC membership

In the period 1995-1998 IEC membership expanded from 51 member countries to 60. The introduction of associate and pre-associate membership categories has encouraged new members from developing countries.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IEC has participated in meetings of the following bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe during the reporting period:

(a) Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, (Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies);

(b) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;

(c) Committee on Power Distribution;

(d) Committee on Electronic Data Transfer.

IEC maintains contact with the following United Nations agencies through exchange of documents and reciprocal attendance at meetings:

(a) World Trade Organization. Observer status on the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;

(b) International Labour Organization. Liaison in the field of live working, electrical installations through IEC technical committees;

(c) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-R. Radiocommunications Bureau; liaison with study groups;

(d) ITU-T. Telecommunication standardization; liaison with study groups;

(e) World Health Organization. Liaison in the fields of medical equipment, non-ionizing radiation.

4. International Federation of Associations of the Elderly

General consultative status granted in 1991

The International Federation of Associations of the Elderly (FIAPA) was founded in Paris on 26 September 1980. It works in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the culture and education sectors, and with the World Health Organization (WHO). In Europe, the Federation is one of the five members of the European Commission's Liaison Group on the Elderly.

The Federation owes its international prestige to its originality: it consists solely of associations of elderly persons who, in this way, are taking their fate into their own hands. Established with the participation of four European countries, it now covers some 50 countries around the world.

This success clearly reflects an expectation in need of expression: that the elderly should remain integrated in society and that efforts should be made to strengthen their role and place in society as full participants in development.

Regular activities

The Federation is universal and apolitical. It promotes the activities of its member associations by fostering the exchange of information, coordinating

concerted actions and organizing meetings such as international symposia (12 symposia in 19 years).

The Federation does not confine itself to reporting to international organizations on the activities of its member associations; it also helps to implement the actions envisaged at the highest international level and takes part in their assessment as a genuine partner. By listening constantly to the concerns of the elderly throughout the world, the Federation identifies the areas of action that seem to be necessary and presents them, in a reasoned manner, in international forums.

Activities during the period 1995-1998

1995

(a) The United Nations designated the Secretary-General of the Federation as a member of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development. On the basis of his proposals, the participation of the elderly in social development was emphasized in the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Summit in March 1995 in Copenhagen;

(b) An agreement was reached between the Federation and the Social Policy and Development Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs concerning the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999);

The bulk of the initiatives should be taken at the local or professional level, since a society for all ages must be built from the ground up. The Federation decided, in agreement with the United Nations, to establish one or two "1999 focal points" on each continent for the purpose of mobilizing grass-roots associations in the countries concerned with a view to carrying out as many specific projects as possible;

(c) The "1999 focal points" compiled a list of such projects, grouping them according to the four dimensions of the conceptual framework defined by the United Nations, while the Federation itself was responsible for preparing a global list and proposing that the United Nations should incorporate the most significant projects into the official world programme.

1996

(a) Meeting organized by the Ibero-American Centre for the Elderly (CITED) and attended by Ms. Rosemary Lane, representing the United Nations. The Board of Directors and the Scientific Council presented the Federation's objectives and missions to the Latin American associations;

(b) First European meeting of elderly persons under the distinguished patronage of the President of Hungary and of the various Ministries, which the Federation was invited to attend;

(c) Dissemination to all member associations of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

(d) Twentieth anniversary of the Federation of Rural Elderly of Tarn-et-Garonne, attended by Ambassador H. Fodha for the United Nations and Ms. C.

Gómez of the European Commission. Discussion of the topic "The role and place of the elderly in our society";

(e) Discussion of the topic "The social life of the elderly and action in the health field" for the tenth anniversary of the Martinique association member of the Federation.

1997

(a) Arrangements by the Board of Directors and the Scientific Council for the Santander 1998 symposium;

(b) Statement by the Federation at the plenary meeting of the Commission for Social Development, and dissemination of its contribution to the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons on the general topic "The participation of older persons in the life of society";

(c) Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(d) Formation of a temporary Executive Board consisting of representatives of the four founding member countries: Belgium (Ms. Charlier Guillaume), France (Mr. de Clarens, Mr. Deboise and Mr. Pinsault), Italy (Mr. Bertoldi) and Spain (Mr. Roig and Mr. Chato); a representative of Portugal (Ms. Moura); and a representative of the Scientific Council (Mr. Hillenius) to improve the preparation and dissemination of the Federation's actions, but also to facilitate the work of the Board of Directors;

(e) Eleventh international symposium of the Federation, attended by regional and local authorities and representatives of international bodies: Mr. Sidorenko (United Nations), Ms. Gómez (European Commission), Ms. Winter Brathwate (UNESCO) and Mr. Napalkov (WHO); also attended by associations from 19 countries, including, for the first time, China;

(f) Decision to undertake a survey on "Adolescents of yesterday and today" in the context of a society for all ages.

1998

(a) Publication and dissemination of the pamphlet "Horizon 99" in French, Spanish and English, and initiation of the survey on the four continents where the Federation is represented. The originality of this initiative consisted of bringing elderly persons and adolescents together, having them share their experiences and identifying areas of solidarity to help bridge the generation gap. An analysis of the responses will be discussed in a presentation at the September 1999 event planned by the Federation;

(b) Meeting of the European Commission Liaison Group. The Federation strengthens its position;

(c) Meeting with local authorities and representatives of Italian associations during the meeting of the Federation's Board of Directors and Scientific Council, and dissemination of "FIAPA Infos No. 6";

(d) Establishment of the Arab-African Federation, consisting of 11 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco,

Palestine, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia), with the participation of the Federation on the theme "Older persons and intergenerational solidarity";

(e) Signing of a cooperation agreement between the Federation and the International Association of the Third Age Universities;

(f) Establishment of FIAPA Europe, headed by Mr. Bertoldi;

(g) Establishment, by the French Government, of a Steering Committee for the events to be held in 1999, the International Year of Older Persons. The Federation was represented by Mr. Magarian, general delegate, and by Dr. Fessard, Secretary of our Scientific Council;

(h) The United Nations decided to launch the International Year of Older Persons on 1 October. An official opening ceremony was held, simultaneously and in liaison with New York and Geneva, at the Trocadéro on the Human Rights Plaza, in the presence of Ms. Hermange, European Deputy and Deputy Mayor of Paris, and of a number of schoolchildren. The opening meeting took place at the Musée de l'Homme in the context of the exhibit "6 billion people". A message from the President of the Republic, Mr. Jacques Chirac, was read out by Mr. Magarian. Ms. Brundtland, Director-General of WHO, made a statement live from Geneva in a two-way broadcast. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, through his representative in Paris, Ms. Seguin Horton, made his statement simultaneously as a result of the time difference. Mr. Colin Power, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, addressed the gathering on behalf of Mr. Frederico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO. A message from Ms. Martine Aubry, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, was read out by Mr. Michel Thierry, Chairman of the Steering Committee for the International Year.

President Rey had been asked to give a presentation on "how to cultivate the art of living".

Also on 1 October, in Brussels, a conference organized by the European Parliament was held on the topic "Older citizens in the twenty-first century". The Federation was represented by Mr. Guido Verbrugghe, Secretary of the Scientific Council.

In cooperation with the Fondation IPSEN, the Federation organized a parade across Paris that was a true celebration of all ages, in which the 10 decades of life were symbolized by two parades: a nautical one on the Seine, consisting of 10 boats, and a simultaneous one consisting of 20 cars accompanied by four motorcycles, which also symbolized the 10 age groups from 1900 to 2000;

(i) Symposium at the National Assembly on "How can we save our pensions?" Statement by the Federation;

(j) "FIAPA Infos No. 8". Feature on "The United Nations and WHO in the context of the International Year of Older Persons";

(k) First international meeting organized by the University of the Third Age (UNATE), a member association, under the auspices of the Federation and attended by international bodies (United Nations, UNESCO, WHO and the European Commission) on the theme "The participation of the elderly in the life of society". Thirty countries represented; over 1,000 participants. The General Assembly of the Federation was convened during this period. It adopted an Institutional Declaration

aimed at changing society's perception of the elderly. This declaration was publicized not only among the associations, but also, and particularly, in all political, economic and social spheres;

(l) The Federation launched a solidarity operation for victims of hurricane Mitch in Central America, sending medicine in cooperation with Oeuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l'Ordre de Malte;

(m) Participation of the Federation official for European affairs in a symposium organized by the Austrian Ministry of the Environment, Youth and the Family;

(n) Participation in the European conference on "Anti-discrimination: the way forward".

5. International Real Estate Federation

Special consultative status granted in 1995

The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) is a worldwide network of professionals involved with real property. It was founded in 1949, is based in Paris and operates chapters in 58 countries. Membership comprises some 4,500 individual real estate professionals, 117 national associations with over 1 million members, 26 universities and other institutions of higher learning.

Activities

1995

Participated in the entire preparatory process for the Habitat II Conference. Also attended the Conference on Population and Development and the sessions of the Commission on Social Development and of the Commission on Sustainable Development. FIABCI representative to Geneva presented a report to the fifty-sixth session of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements.

1996

During the Habitat II Conference, held in Istanbul in June 1996, FIABCI sponsored and conducted round tables, participated in the Partners Forum and attended follow-up meetings in Nairobi. FIABCI held a joint meeting with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). FIABCI presented a one-day seminar on urban/rural linkages. It participated as a panellist at World Habitat Day observance in New York (October). A FIABCI representative to Geneva presented a report on the results of the Habitat II Conference, particularly the "best practices" followed by actions and policies of local authorities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. It set up a Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network. Members participated in and addressed the World Valuation Congress.

1997

FIABCI has held meetings in Paris related to the implementation of Agenda 21 at approximately two-year intervals. It has conducted studies on housing for the

elderly in cities affected by natural and man-made disasters and has investigated the effect of development on slums. FIABCI presented a report to the fifty-eighth session of the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning (ECE/HBP) on the theme "Strategies for urban renovation and modernization of housing", drawing on the collective experience of its professionals in real estate.

1998

FIABCI has sponsored several human settlement caucuses during successive meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It has also contributed to the annual World Habitat Day observances held in New York. FIABCI officially put at the disposal of ECE/HBP its organization and membership to facilitate contracts and the work of the Committee on Human Settlements.

1999

During the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, held in May in Nairobi, FIABCI, prompted by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, launched the Global Housing Foundation (GHF), which is supported financially by the private real estate sector. Since its inception, the Foundation has been able to raise funds to build a "pilot project" of 50 houses as an example of public/private sector cooperation, mirrored in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Publications

Since 1995, FIABCI has produced several publications:

(a) *The Homeless: Perspectives by Sixteen International Journalists*;

(b) *The Property Industry and the Environment*;

(c) *Providing Better Housing for the Elderly*;

(d) *Summary of the Proceedings of Dialogue No. 6 and FIABCI's conclusions*.

6. International Service for Human Rights

Special consultative status granted in 1991

The International Service for Human Rights was set up in 1984 in order to promote the implementation of international human rights standards, declarations and principles. It aims to assist and empower human rights defenders and organizations by, among other things, helping them in their contribution to the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies and other meetings and conferences of the United Nations.

Basic principles

The work of the International Service is illustrated by some principles that have inspired the organization for the past 15 years:

(a) Information is acquired on the United Nations human rights programme, then analysed, processed and presented in various forms, to be of maximum use to human rights defenders;

(b) The International Service launches projects and initiatives that aim to enable victims and human rights defenders to have better access to United Nations procedures. It also seeks to create links between national and international non-governmental organizations and diplomats;

(c) The International Service believes that national human rights defenders and organizations have an irreplaceable role to play in promoting and protecting universal principles of human rights within their own cultures and socio-economic situations;

(d) The objective of each activity is to empower human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations;

(e) The programmes of the International Service provide human rights defenders with a regular service which can be adapted to the needs and priorities of users.

Programmes

For more than 10 years, the International Service for Human Rights has operated through four main programmes:

(a) Information programme: Publication of the quarterly review, *Human Rights Monitor*; the *HR-DOC-DH* series; *HR-Dossiers* and orientation manuals. The *Human Rights Monitor* reports on all of the United Nations meetings in Geneva and New York dealing with human rights. Over 5,000 copies in English and French are sent to subscribers throughout the world, half of whom receive it free of charge. Diplomats in Geneva and New York have told us that they regard it as "essential reading" to follow how United Nations bodies and mechanisms deal with human rights;

The *HR-DOC-DH* includes technical data on United Nations meetings — for example, the results of resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Human Rights, which is given to all governmental and non-governmental organization representatives on the last day of a given meeting. The *HR-Dossiers* are timely briefings on a single current United Nations debate — for example, in 1999 on the permanent forum on indigenous peoples. These series are provided to representatives of government, non-governmental organizations and indigenous groups;

(b) Education and training programme, which includes the Geneva training courses and in-region training sessions, mainly for representatives of non-governmental organizations. Every year the International Service also gives training to governmental representatives, either in United Nations/ILO courses or sessions organized by academic centres such as the Graduate Institute in Geneva;

(c) Liaison programme, which includes joint initiatives for specific objectives, networking, projects on the rights of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations system, projects on the protection of human rights defenders, projects on economic, social and cultural rights. In this programme, the International

Service facilitates contacts between non-governmental organizations and diplomats by organizing meetings between them on specific issues;

(d) Advisory programme, which includes practical advice and assistance to visitors as well as legal advice for those wishing to use procedures. The recipients of our advice vary, from non-governmental organizations and United Nations officials to the press and diplomats.

Monitoring of United Nations meetings

The International Service for Human Rights participates, monitors and reports each year on the following regular United Nations meetings, in Geneva and New York, dealing with human rights matters: General Assembly, in particular the Third Committee (New York); Economic and Social Council, substantive session in July (Geneva and New York); Economic and Social Council Committee on NGOs (New York); Commission on Human Rights (Geneva); the Commission's thematic and standard-setting working groups (Geneva); the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva); the Subcommission's working groups on minorities, slavery and indigenous peoples (Geneva); all treaty monitoring bodies (Geneva and New York); annual meetings of the chairpersons of the treaty bodies (Geneva); annual conferences of ILO and WHO (Geneva).

Other meetings related to United Nations conferences (e.g., on racism) are also followed and reports are provided.

7. North-South XXI

Web site: www.nordsud21.ch

Special consultative status since 1995

Aims

North-South XXI is an international non-governmental organization whose aim is to contribute to the analysis of human rights, as understood in the 1993 Vienna Declaration, by bringing together eminent persons and organizations from the industrialized world and the third world. North-South XXI, which is active on all continents, has the priority goal of enriching the North-South dialogue, particularly in the Mediterranean and between Europe and Africa, without neglecting the situation of human rights in the rest of the world. North-South XXI tries to take more specific action on the rights of persecuted individuals and forgotten peoples. Accordingly, it participates actively in the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (since 1994). In addition, North-South XXI is particularly active in the International Labour Organization (ILO) (special status since 1996).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its organs and/or in United Nations conferences

Since obtaining consultative status, North-South XXI has participated in every session of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. It has contributed, in particular, through its many oral (15) and written (31) statements. It should be noted that, at these sessions, North-South XXI provides logistical assistance to representatives of Native American organizations. In addition, North-South XXI participated in many United Nations events throughout this period:

1995

NGO Forum on Social Development (Copenhagen);

World Conference on Women (Beijing);

NGO Conference held in connection with the Euro-Mediterranean Conference (Barcelona);

International Commission against the Embargo (London);

Meeting of non-governmental organizations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations (Berne).

1996

Non-governmental organizations conference at UNESCO (Paris);

Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) (Geneva);

NGO Committee on Family Integration in Social Progress and Development (Vienna).

1997

NGO conference on the elimination of all forms of discrimination (Geneva);

Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on Anti-personnel Landmines (Oslo);

International conference on solidarity with the Palestinian people (Vienna);

International symposium on contemporary forms of violence and the culture of peace (Morocco);

Workshop of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul).

1998

Conference in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Brussels);

United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People (Cairo);

Economic and Social Council symposium on embargoes (Rome);

Forum 98 on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Geneva).

Cooperation with United Nations agencies and specialized agencies

Since North-South XXI has had special status with ILO since 1996, it participates in the annual International Labour Conference (Geneva).

Other activities

Action to implement United Nations resolutions

By organizing and participating in many symposia and seminars at the international, national and local levels, North-South XXI has played an important role in promoting and implementing the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1995

Organization of a lecture series on human rights in Africa, in cooperation with the Inter-African Human Rights Union (France).

1996

"Morality for the twenty-first century" (Geneva);

Organization of an international symposium on human and peoples' rights in Africa (Tripoli).

1997

"Africa, the Great Lakes region and human rights" (Geneva);

"Islam and the West" (Morocco);

"The Mediterranean: two banks and two civilizations: complementarity or conflict?" (Tripoli);

"Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (Geneva).

1998

Symposium on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Geneva);

Symposium on Western human rights declarations and the Great Green Document of the Jamahiriya (Tripoli);

"Mankind in the grip of globalization" (Geneva);

Seminar on immigration and first-generation French nationals (France).

Consultation and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat and preparation of documents

North-South XXI has contributed a number of times to reports of the United Nations Secretariat and to the work of special rapporteurs (particularly the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, in July 1997) and of various working

groups (particularly the Working Group of Intergovernmental Experts on the Human Rights of Migrants, in October 1997).

Other examples of advisory activities

North-South XXI has made vigorous efforts to make the general public aware of current human rights issues through its Internet site and through three types of publications: its "Cahiers", of which some 20 issues have been published thus far; its magazine (semi-annual); its press clippings and press releases; and its information bulletin (two issues a year).

The catalogue of publications is partially available on the Internet site of North-South XXI (www.nordsud21.ch). These publications are available upon request.

8. Physicians for Human Rights

Special consultative status granted in 1995

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) mobilizes the health professions and enlists support from the general public to protect and promote the human rights of all people.

Since 1986, PHR members have worked to stop torture, disappearances, and political killings by Governments and opposition groups; to improve health and sanitary conditions in prisons and detention centres; to investigate the physical and psychological consequences of violations of humanitarian law in internal and international conflicts; to defend medical neutrality and the right of civilians and combatants to receive medical care during times of war; to protect health professionals who are victims of violations of human rights; and to prevent medical complicity in torture and other abuses.

PHR conducts educational and training projects for health professionals, members of the judiciary and human rights advocates on the application of medical and forensic skills to the investigation of violations of human rights. PHR bases its actions on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights and humanitarian agreements.

As one of the founding members of the steering committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Physicians for Human Rights shared the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Campaign and its coordinator Jody Williams. PHR currently serves on the Coordinating Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Projects relating to the work of the United Nations

Development of the Istanbul Protocol: International Standards for the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Ill Treatment

During the past 20 years, much has been learned about torture and its consequences, but there have been no international guidelines for documentation. This situation changed on 9 August 1999, when dozens of experts submitted the first

comprehensive set of guidelines for the documentation and investigation of torture: *Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (Istanbul Protocol).

The Protocol is the result of three years of analysis, research and drafting undertaken by more than 75 forensic doctors, physicians, psychologists, human rights monitors, and lawyers who represent 40 organizations and institutions from 15 countries. Dr. Vincent Iacopino of Physicians for Human Rights was the initiator and primary coordinator of the project. The project was conceived in March 1996, after an international symposium, "Medicine and human rights", held at the Department of Forensic Medicine, Cukurova University Medical Faculty, Adana, by the Turkish Medical Association. The drafting process culminated at a meeting in Istanbul in March 1999, when the *Manual* reached its final form. The documentation methods contained in the *Manual* also apply to other contexts, including human rights investigations and monitoring, assessment of individuals seeking political asylum, the defence of individuals who "confess" to crimes during torture, and assessment of needs for the care of torture victims. In the case of health professionals who are coerced to neglect, misrepresent, or falsify evidence of torture, the *Manual* also provides an international point of reference for health professionals and adjudicators alike.

The Istanbul Protocol also outlines minimum standards for State adherence to ensure the effective documentation of torture in its "Principles on the Effective Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". These principles have been submitted to United Nations officials for consideration by the General Assembly. Official publication of the *Manual* by the United Nations is expected by the year 2000. In the meantime electronic copies of the version submitted to the United Nations may be obtained from several web sites (www.phrusa.org, www.hrft.org.tr, and www.tihv.org.tr).

United Nations officials who participated in the final conference related to the development of the Protocol included: Ms. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights; Mr. Nigel Rodley, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture; Mr. Alessio Bruni, Secretary to the Committee Against Torture; Mr. Daniel Premont, Secretary to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; Mr. David Weissbrodt, Member, United Nations Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Forensic work for international criminal tribunals

Between 1995 and 1998, PHR provided extensive medico-legal expertise and consultation to the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for Rwanda (ICTR). In December 1994, PHR conducted an educational seminar in The Hague for the Tribunal's staff. The two-day seminar, held at the request of Prosecutor Richard J. Goldstone, covered the medico-legal investigation of war crimes and the psychological and sociological aspects of working with survivors of torture and rape. In December 1995 and again in January and March 1996, PHR experts participated in preliminary assessment visits to mass graves in Bosnia. PHR deployed large multinational teams at the request of the Tribunal for extensive exhumation and examination of mass graves in Bosnia, Croatia and Srpska from July through November 1996, including the important sites of the Srebrenica massacres. A PHR team also returned to Vukovar, Croatia, in September 1996 to

complete the excavation of the mass grave at that site. In 1997, PHR established an antemortem database and forensic training programme in Bosnia to work in cooperation with ICTY and local authorities on the recovery and identification of remains.

Since the establishment of the Tribunal for Rwanda, PHR has sent forensic survey teams to that country to assist in the gathering of evidence of war crimes by mapping the mass graves of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who were slaughtered by government extremists between early April and mid July 1994. In January and February 1996, a 16-person team carried out the exhumation and forensic examination of 500 bodies from a mass grave in the parish of Kibuye in western Rwanda. The team included archaeologists, pathologists and forensic technicians from the United States, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Guatemala and Scotland. In June, a second team returned to Kigali to exhume graves in several sites in the Rwandan capital. During the course of both exhumations, PHR teams gathered important evidence for cases against indicted war criminals. The team examined more than 450 remains from the Kibuye grave itself. Of those, more than half were infants, children and young people under the age of 18. The predominant causes of death were machete wounds and blunt force trauma to the head. Survivors also came forward to identify clothing of loved ones and the process yielded new eyewitnesses to the crimes. PHR's Dr. William Haglund has testified in several cases before ICTR in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

In recognition of PHR's efforts, the Tribunal's Chief Prosecutor, Judge Richard Goldstone, wrote to PHR stating the following, "Thank you for the outstanding work done by the team from Physicians for Human Rights. You have unmatched expertise in this field and without your assistance these vital exhumations would in all probability not be possible." Funds for this work were contributed by UNDP, among others.

Afghanistan mass graves

Physicians for Human Rights was contacted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR) in early December 1997 with a request for a forensic scientist to travel immediately to Afghanistan to join a United Nations team investigating mass graves near Maaza I Sharif. Dr. Mark Skinner, of Vancouver, an experienced forensic anthropologist, was able to represent PHR on that investigation. The discovery of several mass graves and bodies buried in wells that appeared to be the victims of summary executions caused a stir in the United Nations and in the press. Dr. Skinner has since submitted his report to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

Somalia mass graves

PHR dispatched two forensic anthropologists, including Dr. William Haglund, director of PHR's International Forensics Program, to northern Somalia in December 1997 at the request of UNCHR. The purpose of the mission was to conduct a preliminary assessment of a large, open mass grave believed to contain bodies of victims of massacres perpetrated by the forces of former Somali leader Siad Barre. The report prepared for the United Nations Centre for Human Rights recommended various options for recovery of remains, forensic evaluation, and training of Somali investigators. The United Nations issued a report of the

investigation in 1999, "Preliminary assessment of mass graves in the vicinity of Hargeisa, Somalia (E/CN.4/1999/103/Add.1).

Consultation on humanitarian aid to Afghanistan

On 21 August 1998 PHR's advocacy director, Holly Burkhalter, participated in a meeting in New York at the invitation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to discuss human rights and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Representatives from WHO, UNICEF, and other United Nations agencies attended. PHR had conducted an extensive investigation into the violations of the rights of women and the threat to women's health under the Taliban regime.

Promotion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In 1998 in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, PHR launched a campaign to educate health professionals about that important document and its relationship to health worldwide. The organization distributed widely a brochure "Forging the Link" and published an article on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association. PHR also organized anniversary events at medical schools and public health schools. PHR Deputy Director Susannah Sirkin and Senior Medical Consultant Dr. Vincent Iacopino co-authored a chapter of the United Nations-sponsored book, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Fifty Years and Beyond*, and spoke at a ceremony to launch the book at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Landmines

As a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, PHR participated in the signing ceremonies in Ottawa and subsequent conferences that brought together non-governmental organizations, individual Governments and United Nations agencies.

9. Prison Fellowship International

Special consultative status granted in 1983

Prison Fellowship International (PFI) is a voluntary association of national Prison Fellowship organizations in 88 countries. PFI is involved in a broad range of criminal justice concerns and works through its affiliate organizations to promote participation in criminal justice. PFI provides a worldwide forum for discussing issues and developing awareness concerning crime and the treatment of offenders.

PFI is governed by an international Board of Directors, representing a broad-based membership of community leaders, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens.

PFI has significant interests in United Nations activities concerned with crime and the treatment of offenders, human rights, women, youth and the family, relief and development, and peace.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

PFI has been extensively involved as a member of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (New York). PFI's Vice-President and its Director of Justice Initiatives have participated actively in the regular meetings of the Alliance, and for a period in 1995, PFI's Director of Justice Initiatives chaired the Alliance. In 1995-1998, PFI provided administrative and clerical support to the Alliance by distributing minutes and announcements on behalf of the Executive Secretary. PFI's Vice-President and its Director of Justice Initiatives participated in the Working Party on Restorative Justice and chaired its drafting committee.

PFI sent six delegates to the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 28 April to 8 May 1995). It conducted ancillary sessions on restorative justice, the treatment and transfer of foreign prisoners, and community involvement in corrections.

PFI's Vice-President and representatives attended and intervened at the seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to urge that "restorative justice" be included in the agenda for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.

Cooperation with United Nations Programmes, bodies, and specialized agencies

PFI representatives continued consultation with representatives of WHO and UNDP concerning the problem of tuberculosis in Eastern European prisons and steps that might be taken to address it.

PFI maintained regular efforts to inform its leadership and membership about the United Nations and to encourage support for United Nations activities. PFI maintained two representatives at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. Additionally, PFI maintained representatives at the headquarters of the regional economic commissions. Information and news related to United Nations activities was sent to PFI national affiliates regularly and was disseminated through PFI's various publications.

Other relevant activities

Written and verbal reports on United Nations activities and PFI involvement were routinely included in the agenda of PFI International and its regional meetings. Workshops at PFI's triennial international Congress in Washington, D.C. (fall 1995) and International Council meeting in Manila (fall 1997) focused attention on United Nations activities and standards with respect to human rights, alternatives to imprisonment, victim support and compensation, the treatment of offenders, community involvement in corrections, and restorative justice.

PFI reprinted at its own cost and distributed to its members in English, French, Russian, Chinese and Spanish, the Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

10. SOS Drugs International

Special consultative status granted in 1995

In carrying out its activities, SOS Drugs International has formed a number of ideas about the world of drug addiction. For example, the association advocates full respect for the rights of drug users, in accordance with the Lisbon Declaration of 1992, which defines drug addicts as full citizens with rights and duties. Accordingly, the therapeutic programmes of treatment centres and professional aims and practices must seek to enable drug addicts to regain their autonomy and capacity to make choices. Since its establishment, SOS Drugs International has emphasized the need to develop diversified treatment systems. In addition to the provision of support, ever-changing imperatives must be taken into consideration. Helping drug addicts to break their dependency is both relevant and insufficient. It is necessary to provide drug addicts with decent living conditions (harm reduction, emergency shelter, health care) and to break the spiral of exclusion through integration and training. Prevention and information are also among the objectives pursued by the association. SOS Drugs International has taken care not to undertake anything in isolation, without consultation, but to act in full cooperation with the relevant Ministries, local authorities and eminent specialists in the field (doctors, psychologists and sociologists). At the same time, the association has always sought to facilitate contacts among scientists in these various fields so that the resulting exchange of ideas will lead to a common and constructive process of reflection. SOS Drugs International has grown progressively to become France's largest association for the assistance and treatment of drug addicts. It operates in 18 departments and has 400 employees.

International activities: implementation of cooperation initiatives

Since its establishment, SOS Drugs International has sought to carry out truly international activities aimed not only at the exchange of experiences and the enrichment of knowledge, but also at the establishment of a real network of individual, organizational or institutional partners to address a problem whose extent and seriousness transcend boundaries. Accordingly, for a number of years, the association's competence has also been appreciated abroad, such as when it participated in the establishment of various specialized centres in Europe and South America.

Since 1995, bilateral cooperation programmes have been or are being carried out in Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Argentina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and India. These cooperation initiatives are made possible by the confidence which funding sources, primarily the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, have shown in the association. Thus, in Morocco, SOS Drugs International has cooperated since 1995 with the Ar Razi de Salé university psychiatric hospital. This cooperation has included specialized two-month internships in France on drug addiction; training seminars in Rabat-Salé; visits to France by the directors of the Ar Razi Hospital for information missions and contacts with the French authorities; training, equipment and a system, in liaison with the French database "Toxibase", for creating a Moroccan database on drugs and drug addiction; and seminars on drug addiction prevention with officials of the

Ministries participating in the National Narcotics Commission of the Kingdom of Morocco.

These activities are carried out in the context of the technical assistance provided for the opening, in 1998, of the National Drug Addiction Research and Prevention Centre, located on the premises of the Ar Razi Hospital in Rabat-Salé, and the first establishment of its kind in the Maghreb.

Also in Morocco, in 1998, the association will begin to cooperate with the Ministry of Public Health in carrying out a drug addiction action, treatment and prevention programme in the Tanger-Tétouan region. The objectives are fourfold: to establish a shelter for drug addicts; to improve the treatment of drug addicts (internships, seminars); to develop primary and secondary prevention of drug addiction (seminars); and to conduct local surveys on awareness of the problem of drug addiction.

This major cooperation project will take place over a three-year period. It will be financed by the Commission of the European Union, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health of the Kingdom of Morocco and SOS Drugs International.

In Lebanon, in cooperation with the association Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (Nursing Care and Community Development), a project involving the opening of a centre for the shelter, treatment, rehabilitation and counselling of drug addicts is being conducted. The objectives are: drug addiction prevention and harm reduction; shelter and counselling of drug users prior to treatment; post-treatment support for drug addicts and assistance in their family, social and professional reintegration; and creation of a database on drug addiction from field studies and other studies to elucidate and explain the phenomena of drugs and drug addiction.

To achieve these goals, apart from the opening of the centre and the purchase of equipment (including a minibus for neighbourhood prevention efforts), training seminars will be held in Beirut on the topics "Drug addiction and street work" and "Harm reduction". Specialized two-and-a-half-month workshops in France are also planned.

In Jordan, an assistance project for the preparation of a national master plan to combat drug abuse will be carried out in 1998. This initiative will help to guide Jordan's policy for preventing and combating drug abuse by providing guidelines for balancing national actions in the areas of suppression, prevention and treatment, and by coordinating the work of the various entities involved in the field.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, SOS Drugs International is discussing the following programme with the association "Doverba": establishment of an information and research centre on drugs and drug addiction; preparation, conduct and use of surveys to clarify the situation of drug addiction in that country; organization of training activities for various categories of professionals (social workers, physicians, teachers, etc.) and trainees; specialized courses in France on drug addiction and conduct of seminars in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and assistance in efforts to harmonize Macedonian laws in the area of drug addiction, through a specialized mission of experts to carry out analyses and discussions with the Macedonians.

In Argentina, SOS Drugs International is cooperating with the Interdisciplinary Research and Assistance Institute in designing a programme of clinical studies in the social and behavioural fields with a view to establishing a network of exchanges and publications to pursue studies and research on drug addiction.

In India, the association is a partner of the National Addiction Research Centre (NARC) in a project to establish a mobile primary care and drug abuse prevention clinic for street children in Bombay.

Other international activities

Apart from the active participation of members of its teams in various seminars, SOS Drugs International organized international scientific and multidisciplinary symposia at UNESCO in Paris in 1986 and 1994. The proceedings of the latter symposium have been published in French and English. The association's activities and ideas in the area of international cooperation are based in part on its Scientific Council, chaired by Professor Claude Olievenstein and currently composed of 22 members from 16 countries. The association participates regularly in the preparatory meetings and plenary sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna.

SOS Drugs International is also a member of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations' Committee on Narcotic Drugs and participates in its meetings. It is accredited as a participating association of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Participation in United Nations activities

By virtue of its special consultative status with the Council, SOS Drugs International has participated in many United Nations activities:

1996

Sent a delegation to participate in the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 16-25 April 1996).

1997

Sent a delegation to participate in the fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 17-20 March 1997); sent a delegation to participate in the preparatory meetings for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities (Vienna, 12-17 October 1997 and 2-5 December 1997).

1998

Sent a delegation to participate in the forty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 11-13 March 1998); sent a delegation to participate in the special segment to prepare for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (Vienna, 16-20 March 1998); sent a delegation to participate in the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (New York, 8-10 June 1998); participated in the

meeting of the intergovernmental working group of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to prepare for the next session (Vienna, 14-16 December 1998).

1999

Sent a delegation to participate in the forty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 16-25 March 1999), on which occasion the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco thanked SOS Drugs International for its cooperation initiatives in that country.

Participation in other United Nations activities

Members of SOS Drugs International and heads of its structures have attended a number of conferences organized jointly by United Nations entities:

1997

Eighth International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, co-sponsored by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (Paris, 23-27 March 1997).

1998

Twelfth World AIDS Conference, organized jointly by UNAIDS (Geneva, 28 June to 3 July 1998); assistance missions to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the preparation of a national master plan to combat drugs, based on the principles recommended by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and financed by the Commission of the European Communities.

1999

Tenth International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, co-sponsored by UNAIDS (Geneva, 21-25 March 1999).

11. St. Joan's International Alliance

Special consultative status granted in 1971

Objectives

Our Alliance, founded in London in 1911, seeks to ensure that the practical equality of rights between women and men is recognized in all fields and on all continents. It is the only Catholic feminist organization that is recognized by both the United Nations and the Vatican (associate member of the Conference of International Catholic Organizations). It is therefore in a crucial position to promote women's advancement throughout the world. Over the past 20 years, the feminist movement has weakened considerably in Europe and in every country in which civil laws have greatly improved. The lack of any progress in the Catholic ecclesiastical sphere has driven many feminists away from Catholic institutions. Despite our recruitment difficulties and our dwindling numbers, we have always maintained our

frankness on these burning issues, on which we have acquired recognized experience.

The need to protect and promote women's rights in many countries of the South has prompted us to pay special attention to these countries. Since 1993, to the extent that we can afford to do so, we have distributed, free of charge, our new quarterly magazine *Terre des Femmes. Sociétés et Religions Nouvelles Internationales* in these countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. This publication provides information on progress, obstacles and initiatives concerning the civil, individual and family rights of women of every continent and every religion. Our most effective efforts today are made by means of this publication and the contacts it affords. The arrival of the Internet has opened up new opportunities and means of action.

Participation in United Nations meetings

(a) World Conference on Women. Four of our delegates took part, and also took part in the "parallel" Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum on Women in Huairou. Active participation in the debate on female genital mutilation;

(b) Non-governmental organizations' consultation preparatory to the World Conference on Women (Vienna, March 1993). Our delegate in Vienna took part and, following various contacts there, wrote to the World Council of Churches in Geneva asking it to organize a pluralist "Women and Religions" centre at the Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum in Beijing. This was done in Huairou and was called the "Dialogue among Women of Faith" Centre;

(c) International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (Paris, UNESCO, 30 and 31 May 1995). Workshops preparatory to the World Conference on Women: "Towards a 'Platform Plus'". Our association had been invited to attend; the president of our French chapter helped draft the joint "Platform Plus" document which we signed;

(d) Symposium of International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) on "Family Rights of Women" (Vienna International Centre, January 1993). Participation of our delegate in Vienna and publication of the proceedings of this meeting;

(e) Non-governmental organizations' conference at the United Nations (New York, September 1997). Our international president participated;

(f) Training. Our Alliance sent one of our members from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a sociologist who had worked as a "rural development agent" in various provinces of her country, to two training sessions on international realities, organized for delegates of non-governmental organizations to United Nations bodies by the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (1994 and 1995).

Efforts to promote United Nations resolutions

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Absolutely ALL of our activities and publications support this Convention and call for its practical implementation in all areas. Our magazine regularly reports on

the achievements, obstacles, initiatives and progress noted in each State. At the national level, our United States chapter, particularly in the state of Missouri, has fought for government ratification of this Convention. For States in the process of drafting a new Constitution (in Africa, for example), our magazines explain the most effective strategies for ensuring that the principle of equal rights between women and men is included. We seek to ensure that religious organizations, especially Catholic ones, in the educational and social fields combat traditional prejudices that bar women's access to knowledge, property and power. See, for example, our critique of the document *World Hunger*, presented by the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Rome, October 1996). This document praises women's contribution to development in poor countries, but advocates the preservation of traditional structures in terms of women's status. In preparation for the Synod of Bishops for Asia (Rome, April-May 1998), we expressed appreciation to the Bishops' Conference of Japan, which had demanded that the grave problem of women's status in Asia should be seriously addressed on that occasion and that women should be invited to participate. Our Alliance sent five specific requests to the bishops of Asia in Japan, the Philippines and the Middle East. At the opening of the Synod, the Catholic press agency ADISTA (Rome) sent these requests to all Roman Catholic institutions hosting bishops from Asia on that occasion.

Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others

We continue to lobby the Holy See to accede to this Convention, inter alia through our official request to the bishops of Asia, meeting in Rome for the Synod for Asia. This request, which recalled that the Holy See is not a party to the Convention and noted the ravages of the international sex trade in South-East Asia, was widely disseminated in the Catholic world by the Catholic press agencies ADISTA (Rome) and CIP (Brussels). This is a continuation of the direct (and fruitless!) efforts made in this regard by our Alliance in relation to the Holy See in 1981, at the suggestion of the President of the International Abolitionist Federation. We had already published a critical study on "The Catholic Church and Procuring".

Continued cooperation with the International Abolitionist Federation to publicize their warnings and those of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and the "Le Nid" Movement against any regulation of the profession of prostitution, as is currently being proposed for Europe, inter alia by the Netherlands. Such regulation leads to the legalization and encouragement of procuring. Many articles have appeared in our magazines on the horrors of the international sex trade.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Campaign against female genital mutilation, which has been waged continuously since our first report on this subject in 1952. Despite all our efforts, the Roman Catholic Church, in contrast to the Lutheran and Orthodox Churches of Ethiopia, has never expressly condemned this type of mutilation, which is practised on so many African women, including thousands of Catholic girls. In preparation for the Synod of Bishops for Africa (March 1994), we sent a detailed request on this subject to many African bishops. It had no direct results: the subject was not discussed at the Synod. However, our articles on the Catholic Church's silence on this subject were mentioned and partially reproduced in a major French Catholic

magazine, and two months later, in 1997, some very subtle practical responses on Rome's part were observed. In preparing a draft law in Belgium against the sexual abuse of minors, we supported the proposal of the government commission to include an article condemning the practice of female genital mutilation on minors in Belgium. We then publicized in the press our disappointment (July 1997) when, in the end, this article was deleted and no prevention and education plan was proposed. Since Belgium now has an entirely new Government and Parliament (1999), we plan to renew our efforts.

1992 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education. We nominated the Institute of Women's Law of the University of Oslo, which, in collaboration with the Private Law Department of the University of Zimbabwe at Harare and with financial assistance from NORAD (Norwegian Agency for International Development), had organized, in 1987, a postgraduate course on women's rights law for African jurists, complemented by a master's degree course and a doctoral course in this area. This example spread quickly to nine South-East African countries, with tremendous practical results, down to the "grass roots" of the population, for social justice and development. Our information packet on this subject may prompt some French-language universities to take similar initiatives in the French-speaking African countries.

Population, demographics, family planning assistance. We have long criticized the Vatican's position on these problems, particularly in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development (1994). We have denounced Rome's obscurantism with regard to the population problem; the Holy See's systematic obstruction of the Preparatory Conference (April 1994) through its 147 objections to terminology used in the proposed text; and especially its ban on all contraception, despite the opposing views of the experts convoked by Pope Paul VI to study the issue. These problems are discussed regularly in all issues of our magazine. In our view, their real impact on women's health and lives and on the future of humanity is extremely serious.

Lecture on Women's Rights Education Courses for rural African populations, given by a member of our organization, Charles Ntampaka, a Rwandan law professor, who had established and organized these courses at three different levels throughout his country and who discussed his method at our 1997 General Assembly.

Conclusion

Our Catholic feminist struggle is harsh, but exciting. Despite our great weakness at the present time, we know that our efforts, limited as they may be by the forces at work, are important in some circles. We trust that the small seeds of information we are sowing through our publications, in a somewhat random fashion, will take root one day, here or there, in some part of the world, and will bear fruit for justice and the harmonious development of humanity. It is vital that we retain our status at the United Nations for the survival and development of our activities, which, at this time, would be hard to replace in our specialized area.

12. Women, Law and Development International*

Special consultative status granted in 1995

Women, Law and Development International (WLDI) is a non-governmental organization committed to the protection and promotion of women's rights globally. WLDI collaborates with researchers, advocates, activists and monitors throughout the world to identify legal, cultural and economic impediments to women's enjoyment of human rights; develop effective activist strategies; and build the capacity of women's groups to advocate internationally and nationally for policies that recognize and protect women's rights. WLDI has been a pioneer in legal literacy and the women's human rights movement. Today, through its capacity-building efforts and collaborative, interdisciplinary research initiatives, WLDI continues to equip women throughout the world with the skills, tools and capacities necessary to "make rights real" for all women. WLDI has worked on several fronts, making important contributions to the global movement for women's rights. Among its accomplishments, WLDI has:

(a) Organized a number of agenda-setting global and regional forums that engaged key women leaders from around the world to articulate strategies for promoting and defending women's rights;

(b) Launched independent regional women's rights organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America that today are recognized as leaders in advocating for women's rights locally and globally;

(c) Initiated and carried out ground-breaking participatory research projects on women's human rights, violence against women, legal literacy, rights education and economic rights, among other themes, providing a basis for deeper understanding and broader recognition of women's human rights globally;

(d) Produced and disseminated innovative and practical strategy frameworks, "how-to" guides, case studies, fact sheets and other tools for advocacy, including *Women's Human Rights Step by Step* and others.

Between 1995 and 1998, WLDI's work focused mainly on building the capacity of women's non-governmental organizations through clarification of issues and strategies, capacity-building, and advocacy and organizing. WLDI played a role in the Fourth World Conference on Women, conducted research for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and for the UNDP *Human Development Report*.

Activities

1995

In 1995, WLDI's activities focused on preparation for and participation in the Fourth World Conference in Beijing. WLDI advised the NGO Forum office on the design of Forum activities and participated in the NGO Forum and the conference itself. In May 1995 WLDI published *A Women's Rights Agenda for the 90s and Beyond* in Spanish, Russian, French, Arabic and Chinese. The outcome of a process

* Formerly, Institute for Women, Law and Development.

involving more than 120 women's human rights activists from around the world, the *Agenda* includes recommendations targeting the United Nations, States, and NGOs, and was used by many groups to prepare for participation in the Conference and NGO Forum. At the Forum, WLDI released a book, *From Basic Needs to Basic Rights: Women's Claim to Human Rights*. The compilation of essays and case studies represents a cross-section of thinking and activism within the women's human rights movement on a number of critical issues. During the Forum, WLDI also coordinated a workshop on women's human rights advocacy for young NGO leaders.

At the invitation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, WLDI conducted a survey of laws and practices worldwide related to domestic violence. WLDI sponsored a panel at the NGO Forum together, with the United Nations Special Rapporteur to highlight findings from this research.

In 1995 WLDI was commissioned by UNDP to conduct a comparative review of legal discrimination against women worldwide for inclusion in the *1995 Human Development Report*.

1996

In 1996, the Institute for Women, Law and Development changed its name to Women, Law and Development International (WLDI) to better capture the international character of the organization's work.

In 1996, WLDI published and distributed *State Responses to Domestic Violence: Current Status and Needed Improvements*, a resource for Governments and non-governmental organizations. The publication, which has been translated into Russian, Ukrainian and Spanish, outlines the United Nations human rights instruments that support the obligation to adopt domestic violence legislation and provides a model for drafting such legislation. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women presented findings from WLDI's research on domestic violence to the Commission on Human Rights at its 1996 session. At that time, WLDI undertook to conduct a global survey of legal responses to rape at the behest of the Special Rapporteur.

Also in 1996, WLDI used its consultative status with the United Nations to support the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. To that end, WLDI designed a lobbying strategy, and a WLDI representative attended 1996 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, to lobby key United Nations officials to support the extension.

1997

In 1997, WLDI completed the study *State Responses to Rape* for the Special Rapporteur, based on a worldwide survey of rape laws. A WLDI representative presented the study and an oral statement before the Commission on Human Rights regarding needed improvements in law, policy and practice related to rape. At the Commission, WLDI also lobbied for strong resolutions on the topic and for the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for another three years.

In July WLDI published *Women's Human Rights Step by Step: A Practical Guide to Using International Human Rights Law and Mechanisms to Defend Women's Human Rights*. The manual describes in a simple, practical style the concepts and content of human rights law and its application to women. Designed as

a basic guide to the operation of United Nations human rights mechanisms and strategies at the national, regional and international level, the manual explains why and how to use those strategies to promote and protect women's human rights.

WLDI prepared background material for the Special Rapporteur's report with a focus on violence against women in situations of armed conflict, particularly refugees and internally displaced women.

1998

In 1998, WLDI launched its *Human Rights Advanced Leadership Training for Women*. This global initiative aims to expand and deepen understanding of human rights advocacy and develop women's capacities to be influential advocates in national, regional and international forums. Using the *Women's Human Rights Step by Step* manual as a framework and principal resource, the project aims to develop the capacity of women to design and implement human rights advocacy strategies, bringing the law, policy and practice in their nations into line with international human rights norms. WLDI began this global capacity-building initiative with over 120 advocates from 22 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States.

Also in 1998, WLDI published and disseminated *Gender Violence: The Hidden War Crime*. This book is intended to serve as a resource for Governments and non-governmental organizations around the world as well as for the United Nations and the human rights community in addressing the issue of violence against women in situations of armed conflict.

13. World Economic Forum

General consultative status granted in 1995

Founded in 1971, the World Economic Forum acts in the spirit of entrepreneurship in the global public interest to further economic growth and social progress. The Forum, whose members are the 1,000 foremost global companies in the world today, is "committed to improving the state of the world". It brings together global leaders of business, politics, academia and other institutions of society to engage in processes of developing and sharing ideas, opinions and knowledge on the key issues of the global agenda. The Forum's basic conviction is that the challenges of a globalized world cannot be solved by Governments or by business alone. What is needed is a global partnership of leaders from Governments, business, academia, labour and the other institutions of civil society committed to improving the state of the world.

The Forum's meetings, particularly the Forum's annual meeting in Davos, have provided a unique platform for dialogue between leaders of United Nations organizations and business. The most significant indication of its recognized importance to the United Nations system came with Secretary-General Kofi Annan's choice of the annual meeting to launch his "Challenge to business", heralding a new era in the United Nations relationship with the world of commerce.

By reaching out to non-governmental organizations and by engaging in a constructive dialogue, the World Economic Forum aims to integrate civil society into discussions on setting the global agenda for the future. For many years, the

Forum has not only acted as a bridge-builder between the private and the public sectors but also as an integrator of civil society.

As part of its efforts to further economic growth and social progress, the Forum has undertaken a number of formal and informal initiatives related to the United Nations system. Furthermore, the Forum has developed a number of long-term initiatives to facilitate the dialogue between international organizations and the business community.

Various heads of United Nations programmes and agencies have participated in the annual meeting as well as regional summits for many years. The Forum's meetings do not only give them the opportunity to voice their ideas and ambitions in front of the top global corporate leaders and numerous political figures but also provide United Nations officials with the possibility to engage actively in networking with their counterparts from the private sector and civil society. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the World Bank are just two examples of United Nations personalities actively participating in meetings of the World Economic Forum. The Informal Group of World Economic Leaders (IGWEL), which is held on the occasion of the annual meeting in Davos, provides a useful platform for heads of international organizations to engage in informal contacts. The number of United Nations participants in Davos in constantly growing.

In 1995, the World Economic Forum's President, Professor Klaus Schwab, was elected as an expert to the Committee on Development Planning, showing that the Forum's engagement with the United Nations is also subject to a strong personal commitment. In addition, Professor Schwab is engaged in ongoing consultations with officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali participated in the annual meeting in 1995, and Kofi Annan visited the annual meetings in 1997 and 1998. Annan not only spoke on the panel directly addressing business leaders to engage in a partnership with the United Nations but also used his visit to consult with a variety of political figures on the spot, including Thabo Mbeki, Jerry Rawlings and Shimon Perez.

The themes of the annual meetings between 1995 and 1998 show that the social objectives of the World Economic Forum are in line with the ideals and mission of the United Nations. The 1995 theme, "Challenges beyond growth", marked the initiative for intensive discussions on future global development. One year later, the theme was "Sustaining globalization". The 1997 theme was "Building the network society", followed by "Priorities for the 21st Century" in 1998.

1995

In 1995, Boutros Boutros-Ghali delivered the opening address at the twenty-fifth annual meeting. The same year, Kofi Annan spoke at a session on selective security, discussing on what basis a "selection" of interventions should be made. Sadako Ogata and Maurice Strong delivered their views on what the United Nations should look like in the next century in a session entitled "Revitalizing our global structures".

Also in 1995, the World Economic Forum took members on a special trip to the Greater Mekong subregion, creating a new identity and new forms of

cooperation in that rapidly developing area. Furthermore, after having actively promoted the integration of Latin America into the world economy for many years, in 1995 the first Mercosur Economic Summit was held in Sao Paulo. The Summit was instrumental in overcoming a crisis situation (an automotive trade dispute between Argentina and Brazil) that threatened the existence of that newly emerging economic region.

1996

Countries of the Balkans came together for the annual meeting in a peace initiative designed to sustain and relay the reconciliation processes through the involvement of local and international business communities. The United Nations High Commissioner played a prominent role in that effort. Also in 1996, the Forum's first Central and Eastern European Economic Summit took place, bringing together different objectives and cultures on a regional basis.

1997

The 1997 annual meeting brought Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the podium with his special adviser on United Nations reform, Maurice Strong. The panel session discussed "A United Nations for the 21st Century". The director-general of the World Trade Organization was a prominent participant in the meeting just a few days before trade negotiators in Geneva reached a landmark agreement liberalizing telecommunications.

The special plenary message in Davos by Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, highlighting the devastation of the AIDS pandemic in Africa, provided a moving framework for the session which brought the director of UNAIDS to the podium. It also underlined the long-term commitment of the Forum to support the reconciliation process in South Africa. (Five years earlier, in 1992, the Forum had arranged the first joint appearance of white and black leaders outside South Africa.) The annual meeting has been one of the few places regularly to offer African leaders a global forum.

1998

The newly elected Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, agreed to be Rapporteur of the 1998 annual meeting and told participants that she wanted societies to discover the key role of public health in development, eradicating poverty and providing decent nutrition.

The head of the World Bank's Environment Department and chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change spoke about global warming and the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was invited to a session on the global problem and strategies for the twenty-first century.

During the period under review, the Business Consultative Group was created to bring together over 30 heads of business associations from around the world with heads of several United Nations bodies. The first meeting took place in Davos at the 1998 annual meeting. The aim of this innovative initiative on the part of the World Economic Forum is to offer the United Nations the support of business and create a

permanent relationship between the business community and the United Nations system.

Also in 1998 *The Africa Competitiveness Report* was published for the first time. This new study, undertaken on a region's competitiveness, was based on the model of the successful *Global Competitiveness Report*. It was the first comprehensive competitiveness study on the African continent.

In many ways the World Economic Forum is putting into practice the network to find global solutions embraced by the Secretary-General. In the future, as in the past, the Forum sees the opportunity it provides for dialogue between the United Nations senior officials and international business, leading academics in science and economics, and media leaders as a valuable function it can perform in encouraging the joint search for "responsible globality". The World Economic Forum's shift from an event-focused to a process-oriented organization offers the scope for even closer, intensive collaboration with the United Nations. But the Forum also embraces a larger goal shared by the United Nations. As phrased by Professor Schwab in his opening address to the 1999 annual meeting: "We [...] need a new ethic of globality [...], of a sense of responsibility of caring for the neighbours in our global village [and] for our ecological integrity". And he added a sentiment that reflects the ethical basis of the United Nations: "The most crucial value in a world of globality is the tolerance for religious, ideological, ethnic and historical differences".